Heroes of the North Land.

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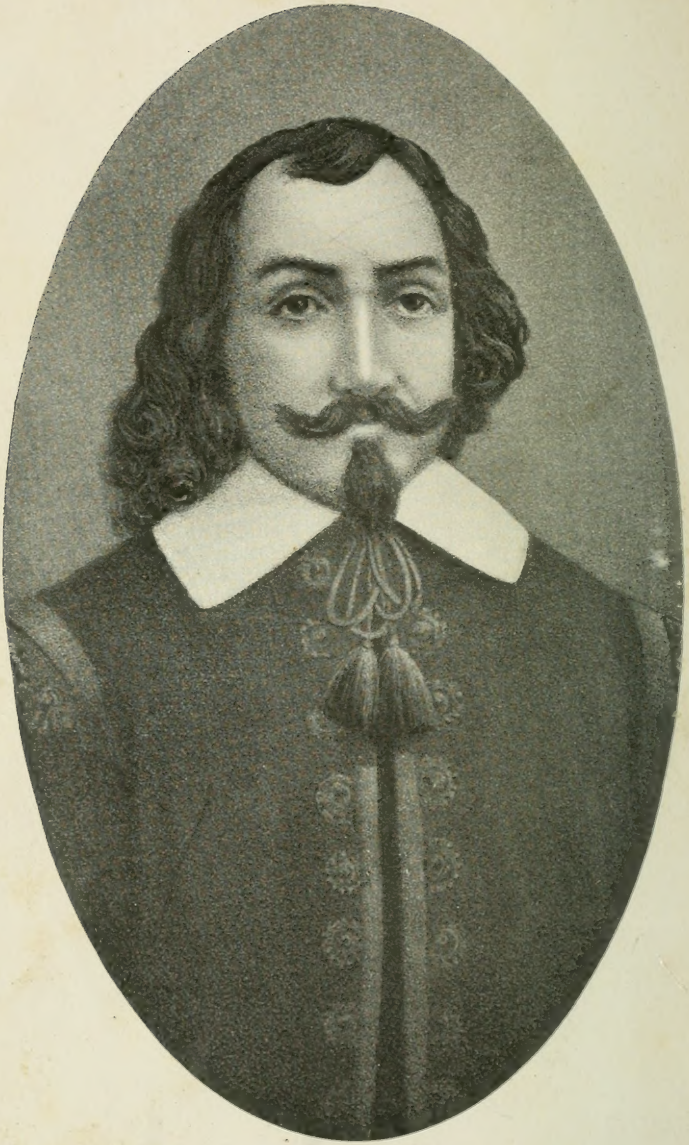
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CHAMPLAIN.

HEROES OF THE NORTHLAND

BEING

BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES

SUPPLEMENTING CANADIAN HISTORY

BY

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PREFACE.

These short biographical sketches are intended to answer a double purpose; first, to serve as supplementary lessons in History; secondly, to supply materials, and perhaps suggest method, for Composition. Every intelligent instructor knows the value of teaching History by examples. The interest of historical study to the young centres in persons rather than in events, in individual achievement rather than in the development of a country or the progress of a people. The mastery of the main events in the lives of prominent men —in other words, the study of History through Biography— is to the child not only a deeply interesting task, but the memory is able permanently to retain what is presented to it in the form of a mental picture. Biography is History appealing to the eye of the mind.

As to the second point, teachers of Composition know that pupils take more readily to the writing of biographies and character sketches than to any other form of Narration. These brief biographies may be useful in supplying materials for pupils to work upon, and thus lighten the labor of preparation, which is no small burden in the teacher's daily life.

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CONTENTS.

		PAGE.
1.	Columbus	1
2.	Cabot	12
3.	Magellan	18
4.	Cartier	29
5.	Cortes	38
6.	De Soto	46
7.	Champlain	52
8.	Brébeuf	59
9.	Daulac	65
10.	La Salle	69
11.	Hennepin	78
12.	Frontenac	84
13.	Madeleine de Verchères	90
14.	Iberville	94
15.	Wolfe	101
16.	Montcalm	112
17.	Cook	120
18.	Vancouver	127
19.	Mackenzie	132
20.	Selkirk	141
21.	Laura Secord	148

Brief Biographies.

COLUMBUS.

1. Christopher Columbus was born in Genoa about the year 1435. His early life was humble, but, though his father was only a wool-comber and education was in those days for the rich alone, the lad received such instruction as his parents could afford, consisting of reading, writing, grammar, arithmetic and drawing. To the last he gave his heart, and soon attained great proficiency in map-drawing, owing to his passion for geographical knowledge. While still a young lad he determined to become a sailor. His father, therefore, sent him for a very short time to the university of Pavia to study geometry, geography, astronomy and navigation, and while there he became familiar with Latin, in which language his lessons were learned. Like Robert Stevenson, the great engineer, his stay at college was limited to a few months, but in that time he learned more than most college-students acquire in several years. It is one of the remarkable features in the career of Columbus that he achieved the most marvellous results with only the scantiest means of wealth and education.

2. He began his sailor life at the age of fourteen, but of his early years at sea we know nothing. The first voyage of which we know anything was a naval expedition undertaken by the Duke of Calabria to Naples, in 1459, to try to recover that kingdom for

his father Réné, Count de Provence. In this enterprise Columbus distinguished himself and was appointed to a separate command of his own.

3. Columbus was doubtless attracted to Portugal by the fame of its navigators, and by the great impulse given to discovery by Prince Henry, son of John I, who established a naval college. The Portuguese discoveries aroused the attention of the civilized world, and when Columbus arrived at Lisbon in 1470 he found the city full of adventurous spirits eager to engage in the numerous enterprises then fitting out to explore the unknown coasts of Africa. Here is a description of Columbus at this time: "He was tall, well-formed, and muscular, and of an elevated and dignified demeanor. His face was long, and neither full nor meagre; his complexion fair and freckled, and inclined to be ruddy; his nose aquiline; his cheek-bones were rather high; his eyes light grey, and apt to enkindle; his whole countenance had an air of authority. His hair, in his youthful days, was of a light color, but care and trouble soon turned it grey, and at thirty years of age it was quite white. He was moderate and simple in diet and apparel, eloquent in discourse, engaging and affable with strangers, of an amiableness and suavity in domestic life that strongly attached his household to his person. His temper was naturally irritable, but he subdued it by conducting himself with a courteous and gentle gravity, and by checking all intemperance of language. Throughout his life he was noted for a strict attention to religion; nor did his piety consist in mere forms, but partook of that lofty and solemn enthusiasm with which his whole character was tinctured."

4. Columbus married a lady of Lisbon, and sailed occasionally in expeditions to the coast of Africa. While at home he supported his family by making maps and charts. It was at this time that his daring genius conceived the plan of seeking the rich and mighty continent of India by boldly sailing out into the vast and unknown ocean to the west, instead of trying to reach it, as were the enterprising navigators of his day, by finding a way around the continent of Africa.

5. After many years' study Columbus had come to the conclusion that the earth was a globe, that two-thirds of its circumference from east to west was known, and that one-third yet remained to be explored. This space he imagined to be occupied by the eastern countries of Asia, and he thought these might extend so far as to approach Europe and Africa, leaving between the eastern coasts of Asia and the western coasts of Europe and Africa an ocean of moderate size. He believed that a ship sailing from east to west must arrive at the western extremity of Asia. He was buoyed up in his belief by a mistaken idea of the length of the earth's circumference. He was told by the geographers of his day that the distance from Lisbon to China, then called Cathay, could not be more than four thousand miles, and that far out in the ocean, nearer to Europe, lay the great island of Cipango or Japan. His knowledge of China and Japan was got from the writings of the great explorer Marco Polo. If Columbus had not made these two mistakes, as to the extent of Asia towards the east, and as to the smallness of the earth itself, we can hardly believe that he would ever have ventured upon his first voyage of discovery.

6. It is believed that Columbus first applied for support to his own country of Genoa. If he did, nothing came of it. At this time John II became King of Portugal, and, as he was eager to extend the power of his country through the discovery of new lands, Columbus, in 1484, applied to him. He explained his theory, and proposed, if the king would furnish him with ships and men, to lead them by a direct route to the rich country of Cathay and the far-famed island of Cipango. King John listened with eagerness to his proposals, and referred them to a body of scientific men, who treated them as absurd. The king then referred the matter to his council, which reported that the plan was destitute of reason. Columbus, in despair of any help from King John, and in danger of arrest for debt, left Portugal in the same year.

7. He again applied for help to Genoa, and probably, after that, to Venice, but these states were in a declining condition and could afford him no assistance. About this time he sent his brother Bartholomew to England to seek the interest of Henry VII. He himself now departed for Spain, where he arrived in great poverty, all his means spent, but his spirit still undaunted by opposition and failure. Nothing could quench the fire of genius that burned undimmed within his breast.

8. Though Columbus had immense difficulties before him ere he secured ships and money for his voyage his darkest hour had now passed. Here is a little picture of him that marks the turn of the tide: "A stranger travelling on foot, accompanied by a young boy, stopped one day at the gate of the convent at Palos and asked

of the porter a little bread and water for his child. While receiving this humble refreshment the guardian of the convent, Friar Juan Perez, happening to pass by, was struck with the appearance of the stranger, and, observing that he was a foreigner, entered into conversation with him. That stranger was Columbus, with his young son Diego. Perez was interested by the conversation of Columbus and struck with the grandeur of his plans. He detained him as his guest and sent for a scientific friend to converse with him. As a result he became convinced of the importance of the proposed enterprise and advised Columbus to lay his plans before the Spanish sovereigns Ferdinand and Isabella." Thus his feet were at last placed upon the road to success. In the spring of 1486 he set out for the Castilian court.

9. It was a happy circumstance that took Columbus to the monarchs of Spain, the most remarkable sovereigns of that age. Ferdinand of Aragon was a man of great intellectual power and of deep penetration. He was a student of science, a keen judge of men, an able statesman, and an indefatigable worker. He was filled with a lofty ambition to make his country great, and to extend his dominions. Isabella, his wife, Queen of Castile, was noted for her sweetness of countenance, her deeply religious spirit, her personal dignity, her firmness of purpose. She was beloved by her people, to whom she devoted her life, and for whose benefit she caused to be passed many beneficial laws. She had a noble love of learning, and her court was the home of the ablest men in literature and science. It was to this great and unselfish queen that the discoverer of the New World owed the success of his mighty enterprise.

10. His difficulties before he could obtain a hearing were immense. He was poor, and made a bare living by drawing maps and charts. He was ridiculed and scoffed at; called a dreamer; looked upon as an adventurer; even the children in the streets pointed to their foreheads as he passed, and called him a madman. But at length he began to gain followers, and after a long, patient struggle, a conference of learned men was called at Salamanca to consider his proposals. History tells us of the impression made by his commanding presence, his elevated demeanor, his air of authority, his kindling eye, his persuasive voice.

11. For five years longer he could accomplish nothing, until at last he was on the point of leaving Spain in despair. During this period of waiting the interest of Queen Isabella had never failed him, and it was she who finally persuaded Ferdinand to join her in pledging their support to Columbus. She even offered to find the means if Ferdinand refused to join her, saying, "I will undertake the enterprise for my crown of Castile, and will pledge my jewels to raise the necessary funds." Thus it was to the efforts of a noble woman that we owe the discovery of the New World. Columbus had spent eighteen years of his life in pressing his plans upon the monarchs of Europe, and he was now fifty-six years of age. Truly, a marvellous example of faith and perseverance!

12. Columbus set sail on Friday, the 3rd of August, 1492. He had only three vessels, his own the *Santa Maria*, and the *Pinta* and *Niña;* the two latter were light barques, called caravels; only the *Santa Maria* was completely decked over. The total number of men in all the

vessels was one hundred and twenty. The story of the voyage is too well known to need repeating in detail. How the hearts of his men failed them almost from the first; how, when they were near the Canary Islands the men of the *Pinta* damaged her rudder beyond repair; how they were frightened by three Portuguese men-of-war off the island of Ferro; how the sailors broke into loud lamentations when they finally lost sight of the last known islands; how, at last, they threatened to throw their leader into the sea—these are some of the dangers and difficulties he encountered. On the 10th of October an open mutiny broke out, and Columbus began to fear the worst, when a branch of thorn, with berries on it, floated by, and soon after, a reed, a piece of board, and a carved stick were picked up. All rebellion was at once at an end. A suit of velvet, and a royal pension were promised to the man who first sighted land. About ten o'clock that night Columbus himself saw a light glimmering away in the distance, which reappeared at intervals until two in the morning, when a gun fired by the *Pinta* proclaimed that land had been seen.

13. When the morning of the 12th of October, 1492, dawned, the weary but joyful mariners saw stretched before them a beautiful island, several leagues in extent, covered with thick forest. Hundreds of natives rushed down to the beach to see these strange ships which they thought had come up out of the deep during the night. Columbus went ashore, fell upon his knees and, kissing the earth, returned thanks to God, and then raised the royal standard of Ferdinand and Isabella, and claimed the New World for Spain. It was with

difficulty that he could repress the transports of his men, lately mutineers, who now almost worshipped him. The natives, when they had overcome their timidity, came up to Columbus, touched his beard—which was something new to them—and caressed his face and hands, wondering at their whiteness.

14. The natives were different from any race of men the Spaniards had ever seen. They are thus described by the historian: "They were entirely naked, and painted with a variety of colors and devices so as to have a wild and fantastic appearance. Their natural complexion was of a tawny or copper hue, and they were entirely destitute of beards. Their hair was straight and coarse, partly cut above the ears, but with some locks falling upon their shoulders. Their features, though disfigured by paint, were agreeable; they had lofty foreheads and remarkably fine eyes. They were of moderate stature, and well shaped; most of them seemed to be under thirty years of age. They appeared to be a simple and artless people, and of gentle and friendly dispositions. Their only arms were lances, hardened at the end by fire, or pointed with a flint or fish-bone. There was no iron to be seen among them, nor did they know its properties, for when a drawn sword was presented to them they took it by the sharp edge. Columbus supposed himself to have landed on an island off the coast of India, and he gave to these natives the general name of Indians."

15. Owing to his mistaken idea of the earth's size Columbus thought he had closed up the unexplored gap between the continents of Asia and Europe, and that he was now upon the coasts of Cipango and Cathay, which

were in reality many thousands of miles away to the west. The island he had discovered was one of the Bahamas, to which he gave the name of San Salvador. It still bears this name, though also sometimes called Cat Island.

16. Upon arriving at Cuba he thought he had at last reached Cipango or Japan. He spent the remainder of the year exploring the shores of Cuba, Hayti, and Hispaniola. There he lost his largest vessel through shipwreck, so that when he was ready to return home he was obliged to leave about forty men behind him. These unfortunates, through their own folly and wickedness, were all murdered before the second expedition arrived from Spain.

17. Columbus set sail for Spain on the *Niña*, on the 4th of January, 1493. The voyage home was terrible for its storms, and the two vessels soon parted. After great sufferings he reached the Azores on the 15th of February, and on the 4th of March the *Niña* entered the mouth of the Tagus. On the 15th of March he landed at Palos, whence he had set out on his momentous journey seven months and a half before. By a singular chance the *Pinta* arrived on the evening of the same day, having survived the storms of the fierce Atlantic.

18. The great discoverer received in Spain the praise due to a mighty monarch returning to celebrate his triumph. He was created Admiral and Viceroy, and many other honors were showered on him. But he was not a Spaniard, and envies and jealousies soon broke out against him. He made a second voyage to America in 1493, and did not return for three years, during which time his enemies did much to undermine

his authority and reputation. He once more sailed for the New World in 1498, but soon after his arrival in Cuba he was deprived of his offices, as a result of falsehoods whispered in the ears of the king. The new governor treated Columbus with the greatest harshness, arrested him on false charges, and sent him back to Spain in chains, "shackled like the vilest of culprits." He was, of course, soon released, and was most kindly received by Queen Isabella. "When the queen beheld this venerable man approach, and thought on all he had deserved, and all he had suffered, she was moved to tears. Columbus had borne up firmly against the stern conflicts of the world; he had endured with lofty scorn the injuries and insults of ignoble men, but he possessed quick and strong sensibility. When he found himself thus kindly received, and beheld tears in the eyes of Isabella, his long-suppressed feelings burst forth; he threw himself upon his knees, and for some time could not utter a word for the violence of his tears and sobbings."

19. It was easy for Columbus to clear himself of the charges brought against him, but his enemies were still as powerful as ever. In 1502, when he was sixty-six years old, he undertook a fourth voyage for the purpose of finding his way through the West Indies to the real Indies, whence the Portuguese were now drawing immense wealth. After intense suffering, including shipwreck and imprisonment, he finally returned to Spain in 1504 an aged and broken man. The queen was now dead, as were his old friends and supporters. He writes to his son: "I receive nothing of the revenue due me, but live by borrowing. Little have I profited

by twenty years of toils and perils, since at present I do not own a roof in Spain. I have no resort but an inn and, for the most times, have not wherewithal to pay my bill." In another place he writes: "I have served their majesties with as much zeal and diligence as if it had been to gain paradise; and if I have failed in anything it has been because my knowledge and powers went no further."

20. After two years of poverty and great suffering from gout and other ills, Columbus died on the 20th of May, 1506.

JOHN AND SEBASTIAN CABOT.

1. If Jacques Cartier is to be regarded as the real discoverer of Canada, John and Sebastian Cabot were the discoverers of North America.

2. Spain and Portugal had won great glory and gain by their discoveries, and the English king, Henry VII, wished to have some share in the rewards to be won by enterprise beyond the seas. He gladly seized the opportunity to rival other monarchs, and readily granted authority to the Cabots to undertake a voyage of discovery under the auspices of the English crown.

3. John Cabot was a citizen of Venice, though he was probably born in Genoa, about the year 1450. Of his early life we know nothing. He was a deep student of geography, and became a master in the art of navigation. In his youth he made a journey to Arabia, and at Mecca he saw the great caravans bringing spices from the far East. His mind was thus opened to the wealth of those eastern countries, and he soon began to long for the means to visit them.

4. He came with his family to live in England, probably in 1472, and settled as a merchant in Bristol, which was at that time a flourishing seaport. He succeeded in interesting the Bristol merchants in the discoveries of Columbus, and induced them to send out several expeditions to try to find what they thought was the island of Brazil. He fully accepted the belief of Columbus as to the earth's roundness, and for some years devoted his energies to preparing for a long voyage to Cathay, which he believed could be reached by sailing boldly out into the Atlantic.

5. In the year 1495 he laid his plans befored King Henry VII, and in the next year the king granted him permission to undertake the voyage under the English flag. Here is the petition: "To the king our sovereign lord. Please it your highness of your most noble and abundant grace to grant unto John Cabotto, citizen of Venes, Lewis, Sebastian, and Sancto his sons, your gracious letters patents under your great seal in due form to be made according to the tenour hereafter ensuing. And they shall during their lives pray to God for the prosperous continuance of your most noble and royal state long to endure."

6. On the 5th of March, 1496, the permission was issued in these words: "Upon their own proper costs and charges to seek out, discover, and find whatsoever isles, countries, regions, or provinces of the heathen and infidel, whatsoever they be, and in what part of the world soever they be, which before this time have been unknown to all christians." They were to set up the royal banner and claim for the king any newly discovered lands. A fifth part of the gains of the voyage was to belong to the crown.

7. John Cabot set sail from Bristol early in May, 1497, with one small ship, called the *Matthew*, and a crew of only eighteen men. Probably his son Sebastian accompanied him. It was a truly courageous undertaking, to attempt to find a new continent, far across a stormy ocean, in a small boat manned by less than a score of men. We have no details of this famous voyage except that Cabot estimated that he had sailed seven hundred leagues, when he discovered land on the 24th of June. He supposed that he was "in the territory of the Grand

Cham." It is now fairly settled that he had found the island of Cape Breton and the coast of Nova Scotia. He landed, planted a cross, set up the flag of England, and claimed the land for Henry VII. In some of the accounts it is stated that he sailed along the coast for three hundred leagues, and that on his return he passed two large islands on his right, but could not stop as his provisions were low. If this be true, he probably skirted the mouth of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and returned through the Straits of Belle Isle.

8. He reached Bristol in August, having been only three months upon this marvellous voyage. He at once reported his discovery to the king, and presented a map and a solid globe showing the course of the voyage. We have a curious record of Cabot's discovery. In Henry VII's private expense book there has been preserved this item: "10th August, 1497. To him that found the New Isle £10." He was also granted an annual pension. He was no longer a humble merchant of Bristol, but was now called "the Great Admiral," and dressed in silk every day.

9. In May, 1498, a second and larger expedition set out. Cabot this time had six ships and three hundred men, and, as before, his son Sebastian accompanied him. They sailed in a north-westerly direction, touched the coast in Labrador, and went north, seeking a passage to India. They probably reached Hudson's Strait, but the cold was so great that many of their men died. They then turned south and sailed down the coast, touching at Newfoundland. Continuing south they ran down the cost almost as far as Florida, and then in

despair of making any further progress westward they turned again home.

10. While they were on the coast of Nova Scotia they saw numbers of savages always dressed in skins. They also saw vast numbers of fish; sometimes their ships could make no progress through the immense shoals. "The bears, which were in great plenty, caught the fish for food, plunging into the water, fastening their claws into them, and dragging them to the shore."

11. No detailed accounts of this famous voyage have come down to us. In fact, we have no certain knowledge of what became of John Cabot after the beginning of the second voyage. It is generally believed that he returned to Bristol, and died soon afterwards.

12. Sebastian Cabot attained to much greater eminence than his father, although it is now believed that most of the discoveries for which he got credit were really those of John Cabot. After the second voyage the Bristol merchants seem to have sent out yearly expeditions to the Newfoundland fisheries, but there is no evidence that Sebastian Cabot was interested in these ventures. For ten or twelve years he seems to have busied himself in the study of geography and in the making of charts. Henry VIII employed him in this way.

13. Henry VIII did not encourage voyages of discovery, and in 1513 Sebastian Cabot went to Spain, where he was employed by the court as cartographer, and was appointed a member of the council for the New Indies. But he longed to make another attempt to find a north-west passage to India, and at last prevailed upon

Ferdinand to support him; but in January, 1516, the king died, and Cabot returned to England.

14. Charles V of Spain in 1519 appointed him to an important position, which he accepted, and in 1526 he took charge of an expedition to Brazil, where he spent four years in trying to secure the supremacy of Spain in South America. This attempt failed, and when Cabot returned to Spain he was imprisoned for a year, and then banished for two years to Africa. In 1533 he returned and was appointed to his old position. Soon afterwards he published his famous map of the world. The original has long been lost, but a copy is still preserved in Paris. This map shows his discoveries in South America, John Cabot's discoveries in North America, and also those of the Spaniards and Portuguese down to his day. It served as the model for all other maps to the end of the seventeenth century.

15. After the death of Henry VIII Sebastian Cabot was induced to return to the land of his birth, where he was placed in command of its maritime affairs. He now reached the height of his power and reputation. He founded and became the head of the great Company of Merchant Adventurers, which marks the real beginning of England's greatness as a sea power. He persuaded this Company to try to find a way to Cathay by the north-east. The result was the discovery of Russia, and, five years later, the opening up of a new maritime trade with the port of Archangel.

16. In his old age he was rewarded by grants of money, a pension, and other honors. Here is a little picture of him towards the end of his life. The

Company of Adventurers were sending forth the good ship *Searchthrift*, on her third journey to Russia in May, 1566: "The good old gentleman, Master Cabot, went to Gravesend to inspect the ship previous to its departure. Master Cabot gave to the poor most liberal alms, wishing them to pray for the good fortune and prosperous success of the *Searchthrift*; and then, at the sign of the Christopher, he and his friends banqueted, and made me and them that were in the company great cheer; and, for very joy that he had to see the towardness of our intended discovery, he entered into the dance himself among the rest of the young and lusty company, which being ended, he and his friends departed, most gently commending us to the governance of Almighty God." He died in the year 1557.

MAGELLAN.

1. FERDINAND MAGELLAN belonged to one of the oldest families in Portugal. He was born about the year 1480, at Labrosa, a town in one of the wildest mountain districts of that country. Doubtless the surroundings of his boyhood affected his character, which in after life was noted for daring, disregard of danger, and absolute reliance upon his own efforts. As the son of a noble house he was educated at court, and was brought up as a page of Queen Leonor of Portugal. When he was fifteen Dom Manoel came to the throne, and the lad passed into the service of the king. In 1504 he left the court, and enlisted as a volunteer in a great expedition that was setting out for India.

2. It was the age of world-wide enterprise and discovery. The heart of every youth beat high with the hope of going out into the distant parts of the earth to earn for himself and his country wealth and glory. Columbus had discovered America when Magellan was twelve years old. Five years later Cabot had discovered Newfoundland and the north Atlantic coast, and had sailed south as far as Florida. In 1499 Amerigo Vespucci discovered the northern shores of South America, and gave his name to the whole continent. In the year in which Cabot sailed for Labrador Vasco da Gama discovered the way to the East Indies by the Cape of Good Hope, and landed at Calicut in India. His expedition had been fitted out by King Manoel, and this great achievement placed Portugal in the very forefront of European nations.

3. All these wonderful events happened under the eye of Magellan, a lad with a constitution and will of iron, and filled with ambition to do some great deed of daring in an age of daring deeds. As Spain claimed sovereignty over the New World of the West, so Portugal claimed for her own the lands of the East. Numerous fleets had gone to the East Indies by way of the Cape of Good Hope since the discovery of Vasco da Gama, and in 1504, a great armada was fitted out under Almeida, who was appointed first Viceroy of India. In this fleet Magellan began his career as a volunteer.

4. He stayed in the East for seven years. He took part in the great sea-fight, in which the Portuguese met the Moorish fleet, composed of two hundred and nine vessels, eighty-four being ships and the rest large praus. After a most bloody battle the Moors were routed, and 3,600 dead bodies were counted next day upon the beach. Magellan was badly wounded.

5. In the next year, December, 1507, he was again wounded in a fight against a fleet built on the Red Sea by the Sultan of Egypt, whose trade had suffered much from the coming of the Portuguese to India. In 1509 he was once more wounded in a desperate struggle between the Egyptian and Portuguese ships, in which the latter won a decisive and final victory.

6. Almeida was now superseded by Albuqueque, a name great in the history of the East, and under him Magellan served for some time, winning renown and rapid promotion. He went on a famous expedition to the far-famed Malacca with his friend Serrao, sailing by way of Ceylon and Sumatra, and reaching Malacca in September, 1509. This place was the

market for all the rich merchandise of the East, and when Magellan reached it he found there men and ships of every country in Asia—Persians, Bengalis, Burmese, Japanese, Chinese, and Philippine Islanders. He was treacherously attacked, and lost sixty men. The friends returned to India, having the only satisfaction of being the first Europeans who had ever penetrated those distant waters.

7. In 1511 Magellan sailed again with Albuqueque for Malacca. They besieged the city, which fell after six weeks' fighting, and captured immense booty. This conquest raised the name of Albuqueque, and of Portugal, to the highest pitch. Malacca was the market of the East, the gate through which passed all the wealth of the Moluccas, the Philippines, Japan, and China, to the Mediterranean. The Portuguese Viceroy determined upon further explorations, to reach, if possible, the famous Spice Islands. Three vessels were sent out, and Magellan and his friend Serrao commanded two of them. They explored Java, Celebes, and Ceram, and finally stopped at Banda, where they loaded their vessels with spices. On their return Serrao gave up his ship, and cast in his lot with the ruler of Ternate, a small island near Celebes. He wrote many times to Magellan in after years, telling him of marvellous discoveries, and this it was that finally determined him to undertake his great voyage round the world. Magellan reached India in safety, and soon after returned to Portugal, where he landed in 1512.

8. Magellan spent the next few years of his life in fighting in Morocco, but his mind was ever full of the idea of again sailing to the islands of the East, with the

stories of whose riches all men's minds were then occupied. In 1514 he got into difficulties with King Manoel and soon afterwards left Portugal, and took service with the Emperor Charles V of Spain. For the second time in her history Portugal let slip a great opportunity. Twenty-five years before she had rejected Columbus; she now rejected Magellan.

9. Upon his arrival at Seville Magellan sought to obtain support for his plans among the influential Spaniards. For a year and a half he was met by much the same sort of opposition as had hindered Columbus. But when Charles V, a youth of eighteen, came to visit his Spanish dominions Magellan's hopes began to rise. The first real help he received was from the great Flemish merchant, Christopher de Haro—the Rothschild of his day. This man, who carried on a great trade with both the East and West Indies, readily offered Magellan all the aid that lay in his power. After some delay Magellan obtained an interview with the emperor, who was soon won over to the great enterprise of winning for Spain the rich islands of the East.

10. There were still many difficulties in the way before Magellan was ready to set out upon his voyage over unknown seas. His partner who had come with him from Portugal threw all sorts of obstacles in his way, The King of Portugal tried to induce Charles V to stop the expedition; the Portuguese even tried to murder Magellan, and to destroy the ships that were being fitted out. But at length he triumphed over all his difficulties, and on Tuesday, the 20th of September, 1519, he set sail on his memorable voyage round the world.

11. The fleet was composed of five small vessels, most of which were old and in bad condition. The armament was for those days very extensive. There were eighty-two large guns, but only fifty arquebuses or muskets. There were a thousand lances, two hundred pikes, ten dozen javelins, twelve hundred darts, sixty cross-bows, four thousand arrows, and many swords. There were also corselets, gauntlets, shoulder-pieces and casques, and three tons of powder.

12. On the 26th of September the fleet arrived at Teneriffe, and it was here that Magellan first began to suspect treachery among his followers. A swift vessel brought him word from his father-in-law that his captains had said that if they had any trouble with their leader they would kill him. There Magellan's courage shone high. He was neither to be intimidated nor disheartened. He sent back word to Spain that he would do his work as a servant of the emperor, no matter how evil his captains might be, since to this end he had dedicated his life.

13. For fifteen days they had good weather, running along the African coast, and not attempting to steer for the southern continent of America, round the southern extremity of which they hoped to find a way to the East Indies. Next followed twenty days of calm, and then a month of very heavy storms. One of the voyagers tells us: "In these tempests St. Elmo's fire often appeared, and in one which we saw on a dark night it showed itself at the top of the mainmast with such brightness that it seemed like a burning torch, remaining there for a space of more than two hours, which was of such comfort to us that we wept with joy. And

when it left us it cast such a vivid light in our eyes that for nearly a quarter of an hour we remained as blind men, crying out for mercy, for we gave ourselves up for lost."

14. After two months of rainy weather the voyagers began to be afraid of a shortness of provisions, and the men were placed on diminished rations. Insubordination broke out on the part of some of the captains, and Magellan was compelled to place one of them in irons. It was a bad augury for future harmony. But the approach of land stopped the trouble for the time being. On the 29th of November the fleet reached Pernambuco. They kept south along the coast and reached the harbor of Rio on the 13th of December. Here they remained for two weeks, trading with the peaceable natives.

15. On the 26th of December, the voyage was resumed and the fleet touched at various places known to and claimed by the Portuguese, and finally reached the Rio de la Plata on the 11th of January. They explored the river, following up stream for two days and then coming to anchor for a week. Vessels were now sent out in all directions to search for a passage into the Pacific but without success. On the 3rd of February, the fleet sailed south again, searching every bay, and sometimes even retracing their course. Terrible storms now broke upon them, and Magellan saw that he must seek a harbor in which to winter. It was not till the 31st of March that they finally brought their ships to anchor in Port St. Julian.

16. Here it was that the mutiny, so long planned, broke out. The sailors rebelled at the short rations, and

the captains insisted on returning to Spain. Magellan refused, and one night the captains of two of the vessels seized the captain of a third, who was Magellan's cousin, and captured his ship. This left the flagship and one very small vessel alone true to Magellan, but his fearlessness and power as a leader now shone out. He summoned the captains to meet him on the flagship, but they refused to see him except on board the *Antonio*. He sent a boat to the *Victoria*, containing six men with concealed arms, to ask the captain to come to the flagship. As he was in the act of declining to obey, the messenger cut him down, and, before his men could spring to arms, another boatful of men boarded the *Victoria*, and in a moment overcame all opposition.

17. Magellan now barricaded the mouth of the harbor to prevent the other two vessels from escaping, and held the game in his own hands. In the night the *Antonio* began to drag her anchors, and as soon as she came near the flagship she was boarded, and after a short struggle captured. The remaining vessel surrendered. Forty men were found guilty of treason and condemned to death, but owing to the need of men, and to a desire not to induce further trouble by too harsh measures, Magellan pardoned them. Quesada, one of the leaders, was executed; Cartagena, captain of the *Antonio*, was marooned. Thenceforward Magellan's authority was supreme.

18. Early in May one of the vessels was sent out to explore, but the winter-storms were specially severe, and in one of them she was driven on shore and soon battered to pieces. The thirty-seven survivors, after great hardships, made their way back to the fleet along

the coast, living upon roots and leaves, and at length arriving more dead than alive.

19. Towards the end of August, 1520, the fleet once more set sail, but only got as far as Santa Cruz, where they stayed two months longer, catching and drying fish, and cutting wood. Spring came in October, and once more a start was made. At length, on the 21st of October, says the pilot Alvo, "we saw an opening like unto a bay." They were off the Cape of the Virgins, and at last Magellan had found his long-looked-for strait. As Columbus had been the first to see the lights on the shores of the New World, so, we are told, Magellan was the first to behold the strait that bears his name.

20. So extensive and intricate was this passage that it took the fleet more than a month to explore it and find its way out. In the meantime, the *Antonio's* captain determined to desert, and while the other ships were busy searching for the passage he left his companions to their fate, and set sail for Spain. This was a heavy blow to the expedition, since, when they emerged from the straits on the 28th of November, there were but three vessels left. The *Antonio* reached Seville in safety in May, 1521.

21. After leaving the cold and stormy region of the straits the explorers soon began to find such steady winds and favorable weather that they soon forgot their privations. They named the ocean upon whose waters they were the first to enter from the east the Pacific. "Well was it named the Pacific," writes the historian of the voyage, "for during this time (nearly four months) we met with no storm." On the 16th of December Magellan altered his course, and, leaving the coast of South

America, sailed to the west. They thought they would soon reach the Moluccas, but day after day passed and only one or two small and uninhabited islands were discovered. The condition of the crews was terrible. "Such a dearth of bread and water was there," wrote one of them, "that they ate by ounces, and held their noses as they drank the water for the stench of it." Another wrote, "We ate biscuit, but in truth it was biscuit no longer, but a powder full of worms, for the worms had devoured the whole substance of it. So great was the want of food that we were forced to eat the hides with which the main-yard was covered. We also had to make use of sawdust for food, and rats became such a delicacy that we paid half a ducat apiece for them." Scurvy broke out and many died.

22. For yet another month they pressed on in this condition with a steady wind. Then came their reward. On the 6th of March, 1521, they sighted land. For ninety-eight days they had sailed over an unknown sea, suffering such privations as had rarely fallen to the lot of men.

23. The group of islands they had reached were named the Ladrones, at the largest of which, Guam, they stayed for a time to provision the ships. On the 9th of March they sailed to the west, and in a week reached the Philippines, which Magellan called the Isles of St. Lazarus. The Philippine islanders treated them with great kindness, presenting large quantities of fruit, cocoa-nuts, oranges, bananas, and fowls. Seeing the immense wealth of the islands Magellan made preparations to barter with the natives, and made a treaty with the King of the island of Sebu by which he undertook

to help that monarch against his enemies. In this rash undertaking the great explorer met his death.

24. On the 27th of April, 1521, Magellan led sixty of his men, accompanied by his ally, to the little island of Mactan, close to Sebu. He refused to allow the natives to land and assist in the attack, wishing to show them how the Spaniards could fight. He had completely under-estimated the force opposed to him, of whom, it is said, there were six thousand. As soon as the Spaniards landed they were met by showers of stones, and a galling fire of spears and arrows. Owing to the thick brushwood they could see but few of their enemies, who were able to attack them in front and on both flanks. Magellan was wounded by a spear, and soon saw that there was nothing for it but a retreat to his boats. The Spaniards, unaccustomed to defeat, fled in haste and their brave captain was left alone with six or eight devoted men to defend him. He retreated slowly until he was up to his knees in water. The natives, roused to fury, and disregarding the weapons of the Europeans, rushed recklessly upon the few remaining Spaniards, wounded Magellan first in the thigh, then in the arm, then in the face, and at last a final blow caused him, covered with wounds, to fall under the water. He died fighting bravely to the last that his men might reach the boats in safety. The savages refused to give up his body, which was never recovered. So fell one of the most dauntless spirits that ever lived, leaving behind him a name untarnished by the lust and cruelty that distinguished so many adventurers of his age.

25. After suffering many acts of treachery from the natives, and the loss of all their ships but one, the

unhappy survivors began to make their way homewards. Soon after the death of Magellan twenty-seven of his followers were murdered, and out of two hundred and eighty who set out but one hundred and fifteen were left. They sailed for the Moluccas, calling at Mindanáo, and running along the coast of Borneo. On the 8th of November they reached these famous Spice Islands, and were met with great goodwill. They loaded the *Victoria* with cloves and other spices. On the 18th of December they sailed for Flores. They touched at Timor on the 25th of January, 1522, and by the middle of February began the voyage across the Indian Ocean.

26. The coast of Africa was seen on the 8th of May, and the Cape passed on the 16th. So broken were they by disease aud famine that they did not reach Cape Verdes until July. Here they narrowly escaped capture by the Portuguese. On Monday, the 8th of September, three years after they had set out, they reached Seville, having on board but eighteen Europeans and four natives. But in spite of their grief at the loss of the great Magellan, who before his death had gained their whole-hearted devotion, they had the proud satisfaction of bringing safely into port the *Victoria*, the first vessel to circumnavigate the globe.

JACQUES CARTIER.

1. JACQUES CARTIER was born in St. Malo, in December, 1494. We have no details of his boyhood, but from the renown of his birthplace as the mother of a race of bold and hardy mariners it is easy to surmise that as a youth he was filled with ambition to excel as a seaman, and some day to undertake a mighty enterprise. When he was a lad he must have been filled with enthusiasm at the wondrous tales of the discoveries of Columbus and Cabot, and particularly of Verrazzano, who had explored the coast of North America from North Carolina to Newfoundland.

2. Spain and Portugal had shown the greatest enterprise, and had reaped the highest rewards, in exploring unknown continents, and Francis I of France, in order to rival them, sent out expeditions under Verrazzano, which, owing to wars at home, were fruitless of result. When peace was restored another expedition was determined upon and Jacques Cartier was chosen as its leader. The object of this enterprise was twofold; first, to establish French fisheries on the banks of Newfoundland, and, secondly, to try to find a passage to China.

3. Jacques Cartier was at this time forty years of age. He came of a good family, and had friends at court who helped to push his fortunes. He was tall and thin, with piercing eyes, and bold, keen features, which told of a dauntless spirit within. He had spent his youth in fitting himself for his great undertaking, and he was full of eagerness to prove his powers as an explorer and leader of men. He was not without experience in long

voyages. It is believed that he had made previous visits to the banks of Newfoundland, and that he had sailed to Brazil in 1527. He was, then, fully equipped for this new enterprise, and his men looked up to him with unbounded confidence.

4. Cartier sailed from St. Malo on the 20th of April, 1534, with one hundred and twenty-two men, in two small ships. "We had such good weather that on the 10th of May we arrived at Newfoundland into which we entered by the Cape de Bonne-Veue. On account of the large quantity of ice along the coast here we were obliged to enter a harbor we named St. Catherine. Here we stayed ten days waiting for favorable weather, and during this time we fitted up and got ready our boats."

5. As soon as the ice broke up Cartier passed through the Straits of Belle Isle and sailed along the coast of Labrador, of which he said, "I think this is the land God gave to Cain." Then, turning south, he touched at the Magdalen Islands, Prince Edward Island, and landed on the coast of New Brunswick. In the heat of July he reached the Bay of Chaleur, to which he gave its name. He next landed at Gaspé, where he set up a great cross thirty feet high, bearing a shield with the words: "Vive le Roy de France." Here is a description of the natives he saw there. "There are no poorer people than these in the world, and I believe they do not possess anything to the value of five pennies apart from their canoes and nets. Their whole clothing consists of a small skin, with which they cover their loins; they also put other old skins across their bodies. They have their heads completely shaven except a lock of hair on the top

of the head which they allow to grow as long as a horse's tail; they tie it to their heads with small leather cords. Their dwellings are their canoes, which they turn upside down and lie under on the bare ground. They eat their meat almost raw, merely warming it over coals; the same with fish. There were about twenty women who threw themselves on our captain, touching and stroking him, their method of caressing. He gave each of them a tin bell of little value and they immediately began to dance, singing several songs."

6. Cartier took two of the sons of the chief with him and sailed north again, coming in sight of Anticosti. But the dread of the storms of autumn forced the voyagers to turn towards home. "The 15th of August after hearing mass we departed and happily reached mid-ocean between New Land and Brittany, and for three days had most wretched weather and an east wind, which, with God's help, we endured. After this we had good weather, so that on the 5th of September of the same year we arrived at St. Malo whence we had sailed."

7. Cartier reported on his return, that he had found the entrance to the passage to China. His announcement created a great stir in France at the thought of winning a new empire, and preparations were made for a larger expedition in the following spring.

8. The second voyage was begun on the 19th of May, 1535. This time there were three ships: the *Hermine*, the *Petite Hermine*, and the *Emerillon*. They carried about one hundred and sixty men. Great gales soon separated the little vessels, which did not come together again until they met at Newfoundland on the 7th of

July. After refitting they sailed to the West, and passed Anticosti, which they named Assumption Island. The great bay to the north Cartier named the Bay of St. Lawrence, a name which was soon extended to the whole of the gulf and river.

9. Cartier, keeping to the North shore, entered the mouth of the Saguenay, and then continued up the St. Lawrence, stopping to examine the Isle aux Coudres, and giving it its name from the hazel-nuts found there. This island, the savages told him, marked the beginning of Canada. Sailing up the river he soon reached the great island now called Orleans, but which Cartier named the Isle of Bacchus, because of the wild grape-vines found there. There he was visited by Donnacona, "the seigneur of Canada," who invited him to go up to his town called Stadacona.

10. The explorer gives the following description of the first view of Quebec ever seen by a European: "At last we came to a very fine and pleasant bay. There is a little river here, and a safe harbor. We named this the St. Croix on account of the day we arrived. Around this place there is a people, whose chief is Donnacona, and his place of living, Stadacona, is here. Fertile soil and very fruitful, numerous fine trees as in France: oak, elm, ash, walnut, yews, cedars, vines, and hawthorns, which produce fruit as large as a damson, and other trees. There also grows as fine hemp as in France without any sowing or cultivation. After visiting and being much pleased with this place our captain and the rest returned to the canoes."

11. It was necessary to place the ships in safety as it was now the middle of September. As soon as that was

done Cartier made ready to go up the river to the town and country of Hochelaga. The Indians were opposed to this, and tried by all means in their power to stop it. "They dressed up three men as devils with horns as long as the arm, and they were covered with skins of black and white dogs. Their faces were painted black as coal, and they were placed in a concealed canoe. The band came to us as usual, the others waiting in the woods for the arrival of the above canoe, at which time they all came out of the forest and showed themselves before our ships without approaching any nearer. The canoe with the three disguised as devils with long horns on their heads then arrived, and the one in the centre made a strange speech as they approached.

12. "They passed along by our ships in their canoe without turning their eyes upon us and continued until they struck hard upon the shore; then immediately Donnacona and his people took the canoe, and the three men who lay in it as if dead, and carried all into the woods, and not a single savage was left in front of our ships. From within the woods they began a talking and a preaching, which we could hear on the ships, after which two of them came forth with their hands joined and their hats under their arms, and one of them called out, 'Jesus, Jesus, Jesus!' Jacques Cartier asked them what was the matter and what was new. They replied that they had sad news, saying, 'Nenny is it good' (it is not good). The captain repeated his question, and they replied that their god Cudragny had spoken at Hochelaga, and that the three devils had come from him with the information that there was so much snow and

ice there that all would die." Next day Cartier sailed with the *Emerillon* and two boats for Hochelaga.

13. The voyagers were in raptures at the magnificent panorama spread before them, and which they were the first white men to see. "Springs of water and beautiful trees, and so many vines loaded with grapes along the river, that it appeared as if they had been planted by man rather than otherwise, but they are neither cultivated nor pruned; the grapes are neither so large nor so sweet as ours. We found numerous huts on the banks in which live those who fish, and these savages came to us in as great friendliness as if we belonged to the country, bringing us numbers of fish, and, for what we gave them, extending their hands to heaven and making manifestations of joy. We reached a place about twenty-five leagues from Canada called Ochelay, which is a strait with a strong and dangerous current full of rocks."

14. After running the *Emerillon* aground in the shallows of Lake St. Peter, Cartier pushed on in his boats, and on the 2nd of October reached the beautiful mountain-capped island, where stood the Indian town of Hochelaga. He was met at the landing by over a thousand Indians who sang and danced, and shouted "Aguyaze," their word of welcome. Next day he was escorted, with his nobles and a guard of twenty sailors, over a well-beaten road, four miles long, to the town, which lay among the fields decked in their autumn beauty.

15. "Amidst these fields," says the recorder, "is situated the town of Hochelaga, near to and touching a mountain which is around it, very fertile and cultivated, from the summit of which one can see far off. We

called this mountain 'le Mont Royal.' The town is round in shape and enclosed with three rows of timbers in the shape of a pyramid, crossed on top, having the middle stakes perpendicular and the others at an angle on each side, well joined in their fashion. There is only one entrance to the town, through a gate which can be barred. At several points within there are stages and ladders to get up on them, which stages are provided with rocks and stones as a means of defence.

16. "In the centre of the town there was a large space used as a fire-place, where they sat in common, each man retiring afterwards to his rooms with his wife and children. Likewise they have lofts in their houses, where they store their corn, out of which they make their bread, which they call 'Carraconny.' The following is their method of making it: they have mortars of wood similar to those used for making hemp, and they pound the corn into flour, then gather it into dough, make it into cakes, which they place upon a large, hot rock, then cover it with hot stones; and thus they bake their bread instead of an oven.

17. "The most precious article to them is 'Esurgny,' which is white as snow, and which they secure in the following manner:—When they have taken any of their enemies prisoners they kill them, and make cuts in their flesh; then let the body down to the bottom of the river, leave it their ten or twelve hours, bring it up and find in the cuts the shell-fish, out of which they make beads, and make use of these as we do of silver or gold, and consider them the most precious things in the world. These will stop bleeding at the nose as we proved in our own experience."

18. Cartier and his companions were entertained for a whole day by King Agouhanna and his Indians. In return he read to them part of the Gospel of St. John, and offered up prayers that they might become Christians. He now climbed to the top of Mount Royal, whence he could see down the St. Lawrence past where he had left his boats, and up the river he beheld the great rapids, and was told that beyond them he could sail for three months. He then bade farewell to Hochelaga and returned to his boats.

19. On Monday, the 11th of October, he reached Stadacona, and found that his men had made a fort in front of the ships left in the St. Croix (St. Charles). There he prepared to winter. In December a great sickness, the scurvy, broke out among both Indians and whites, and by February only ten of Cartier's men were free from it. In another month twenty-five were dead. At last they discovered a remedy used by the Indians, made from an evergreen tree, and the sick were soon restored to health.

20. On the 7th of May Cartier sailed from Quebec, taking with him Donnacona, whom he forced to accompany him back to France. By the 4th of June the returning ships had reached Newfoundland. They had a prosperous voyage across the Atlantic, and reached St. Malo on the 6th of July, 1536.

21. For five years nothing more was done by the French king, owing to wars with Spain. But in 1541, King Francis determined upon another expedition to Canada. He made a nobleman named Roberval Governor of Canada, and Cartier was chosen as his chief captain. Cartier sailed for Canada on the 23rd of May,

1541, with five vessels, and a great many men, and supplies for the colony to be established. Roberval was to follow him, but failed to do so. He reached Stadacona in August, but found the Indians no longer friendly, owing to the loss of their chief Donnacona, who had died in France.

22. Cartier spent an anxious winter in Canada, and in the spring determined to return home. When he reached Newfoundland, he found there Roberval and his fleet, but he declined to go back to Canada, and, slipping away unknown to Roberval, returned to St. Malo, where he lived in peace and honor among his fellow-townsmen.

23. It is believed by some authorities that Cartier made a fourth voyage to Canada in 1543, to bring Roberval back, and that he spent eight months of that year in doing so. If true, no account of the voyage has as yet been found. Nor do we know any more of his personal history, only that he was still alive in 1552. Francis I honored him in every way, and made him a noble, and presented him with an estate near St. Malo, where he passed his declining years.

24. Jacques Cartier was the real discoverer of Canada. He was the first white man to journey up the great St. Lawrence, which he named; to visit the greatest city of Canada, which now bears the name he gave to its mountain. He was the first to apply the name "Canada" to a portion of that vast Dominion which now stretches from ocean to ocean.

CORTES.

1. In some of the preceding biographies we have traced the lives of men who explored the northern portion of the continent of America. It will now be interesting to study the life of the explorer and conqueror of Mexico.

2. Ojeda, the companion of Columbus, was perhaps the first who set foot upon the mainland to the west of Cuba. After him came Balboa, who discovered the South Sea, explored the mainland in the neighborhood of Darien, where he first discovered a civilized race, and brought back stories of the riches of Peru. Pedrarias followed with the largest expedition that had as yet set out from Spain. With him was Bernal Diaz, afterwards the devoted companion of Cortes. In 1517 Cordova, called "the Great Captain," sailed from Cuba for the mainland. He accomplished little, but brought back enough gold to arouse the desires of the Spaniards, and the account he gave of the civilized people on the mainland determined Velasquez, the Governor of Cuba, to make further explorations in the peninsula of Yucatan. He gave the command to Cortes.

3. Hernando Cortes was born in Spain in the year 1485. As a child he was weak and sickly, and it was not thought he would ever grow to manhood. When he was fourteen he entered the University of Salamanca, but soon ran away, and determined to become a soldier. When he was eighteen he sailed for Hispaniola, and in the year 1504 he began his career in the Western World.

4. In the strange, free life of a new land Cortes pushed his fortunes with success for fourteen years, at length becoming Governor of Santiago. He was able to inspire men with such confidence in his powers that the Governor of Cuba was forced to entrust him with the command of the new expedition to the mainland. He set sail on the 18th of November, 1518. The spirit of the man is shown by the fact that, though Velasquez sent two separate messengers after Cortes to recall him and deprive him of his command, he refused to obey, but kept on his way, determined to face ruin or win renown.

5. He had with him five hundred and fifty Spaniards, three hundred Indians, some negroes, fifteen horses, and ten brass guns. He first reached the island of Cozumel, where he made friends of the natives. He then sailed round the coast of Yucatan, until he reached the mouth of the river Grijalva, where he landed on the shores of New Spain, and claimed that portion of the mainland for the Spanish king. Here occurred his first great battle with the natives, who fought with much boldness but were utterly routed. This fight established the reputation of Cortes, and put him in possession of a large tract of country. Among the captives was a young Mexican woman of high birth, who spoke more than one language, and who was of the greatest value to Cortes in his later dealings with the Mexicans. Without her aid as interpreter he could never have succeeded in conquering the country.

6. Cortes next sailed up the coast as far as San Juan de Ulua, directly east of the city of Mexico. When he was settled in that place the Governor of the Province

was sent by Montezuma, King of Mexico, to ask what he did there. He replied that he had come from the Emperor Charles V, the great ruler of the East, to make a treaty with Montezuma, and that he wished to meet him.

7. Montezuma refused to see him, but he sent messengers with kind words and rich presents; and it is a mark of the high civilization of the Mexicans, that he sent painters to make pictures of the men who had thus invaded their country. Cortes held a parade of his forces and guns upon the beach, so that the Mexicans might make an imposing picture for their king. When they were returning he asked them if Montezuma had any gold. "Let him send it me, for I and my companions have a disease of the heart which is cured by gold."

8. The Mexican king sent the gold, and other presents, but absolutely refused to allow the Spaniards to enter his city. Trouble now broke out among the invaders, some of whom wished to return to Cuba. Cortes managed the difficulty with great skill and patience. He told them he must first establish a city, and that those who wished might then return. He fixed upon a spot with a good harbor a few miles up the coast, and founded the city of Vera Cruz. While at work there a neighboring chief offered to form an alliance with him against Montezuma. As soon as Cortes had made this compact secure he determined to keep his men with him at all costs. He could not return except to ruin and imprisonment; therefore, his men must share his fate. One by one all the ships in the harbor were sunk, till the whole fleet was completely destroyed.

9. The first work of Cortes was to make sure of his friends the chief and natives of Cempoala. In this he

nearly failed, owing to his ordering all their idols to be destroyed. When the people flew to arms he seized their leaders and threatened to kill them. He at last succeeded in pleasing them by turning their temples into Christian churches, and appointing the native priests to have care of them.

10. When friendliness was fully restored, and Vera Cruz put in a position of defence, Cortes determined upon advancing to Mexico to see "what sort of a thing the great Montezuma was of whom they had heard so much." Such an undertaking had the appearance of a foolish and desperate enterprise.

11. Mexico was a great kingdom, and its people were, compared with the other natives of the American continent, a civilized race. They lived in stone-houses, possessed wealth, were served by conquered tribes, were brave in battle, and were armed with lances, darts, bows and arrows. As warriors they were superior to any but Europeans.

12. Cortes had an absurdly small body of troops, of whom many were opposed to his policy; a few devoted captains; a few guns and horses; and his own dauntless courage. The world has never seen a greater achievement than the conquest of Mexico by a force of a few hundred, led by a man who had destroyed his ships behind him.

13. He was forced to fight several bloody battles on his way to Montezuma's capital; but his guns and horses spread terror among the natives, who had never before seen either, till at last, instead of fighting, they came with presents to win his favor. In spite of the

craftiness and cruelty of his nature it is to be noted that wherever he went Cortes tried to convert the people to Christianity.

14. When at length the Spaniards came out of the gorge between the mountains and saw the Mexican valley, with its lakes, the great central city, and the smaller towns grouped around it, they were lost in wonder. As they approached nearer they saw that the city itself was built out in the lake, and was only to be approached by three great causeways. They were astonished at its construction, its great size, and the beauty of its surroundings.

15. Bernal Diaz wrote: "When we saw so many cities and towns rising up from the water, and other populous places situated on the land, and that causeway, straight as a carpenter's level, which went into Mexico, we remained astonished, and said to one another that it appeared like the enchanted castles which they tell of in the book of Amadis, by reason of the great towers, temples, and edifices which there were in the water, and all of them work of masonry. Some of our soldiers asked if this that they saw was not a thing in a dream." In Montezuma's palace there were rooms for three thousand guests. In the market-place there was room for fifty thousand people to buy and sell. The enclosure of the great temple was itself a sacred town, from which twenty pyramids rose high above the city.

16. Cortes entered Mexico on the 8th of November, 1519. He was at first treated well, but soon suspected treachery, and averted it by seizing the person of Montezuma, whom he kept a close prisoner. He now roused his followers to the greatest activity, sending

out some parties to search for gold mines, and others to find good harbors for future operations. Men were brought from Vera Cruz to build boats upon Lake Tezcuco. Wishing to make his position secure with the Spanish Government he sent a trusty friend to Spain, to obtain from Charles V authority to push his conquests and to obtain reinforcements from Cuba.

17. At this very time an expedition set out from Cuba to seize Cortes, and deprive him of his command. With the greatest daring he divided his forces, and, leaving half of them in Mexico, set out to fight his own countrymen. He attacked them by night and won a complete victory, and added the defeated Spaniards to his own force. He then returned to Mexico to find his little army in the greatest danger. The Spanish quarters were besieged, and Cortes, at his wits' end, brought Montezuma upon the walls to persuade the Mexicans to desist. While speaking he was struck down by a missile, and soon afterwards died.

18. So great was the attacking force that nothing was left for Cortes but to cut his way out. After two desperate attempts he succeeded in forcing one of the causeways, though he lost a hundred men, and all his guns, and was himself badly wounded. After some days' march he turned at bay, and inflicted a terrible defeat upon his pursuers. As soon as he reached the country of his friendly natives he again got his army into condition; two hundred fresh arrivals from Cuba joined him; ere long he had conquered another province.

19. His activity was marvellous. In the winter of 1520, he was able to send expeditions north and south,

which were successful in subduing much territory. In the spring of 1521 he was in a position to lead another army towards Mexico. When he reached the lake he built some large boats, so that he might attack the city by land and water. Assault after assault was made, and beaten back. But the courage of Cortes and his men never failed, but was rather increased as they saw the fires in the temples, consuming their comrades who had been captured and led to the sacrifice. It was August before Mexico was taken, though much of the beautiful city had been burned and deserted long before. The siege lasted seventy-five days, and many thousands of Mexicans perished.

20. Cortes did not rest after his victory. With the help of his Indian allies he set about rebuilding the city. He saw he must make further conquests to hold what he had gained. In order to increase the number of his cannon he worked the copper and tin mines which were found, and soon increased his artillery to one hundred guns. He sent a large party to the crater of Mount Popocatepetl for sulphur to make powder. His boundless vigor made itself felt everywhere, and by the end of 1521 most of the provinces of New Spain were conquered.

21. In the meantime his troubles at home had not ceased. Several men were sent out to take away his command, but he was astute enough to get rid of them. At last the emperor turned in his favor, and, in 1522, Cortes was appointed Governor and Captain-General of New Spain, to the great joy of all his officers and men. He signalized his appointment by fresh expeditions to Guatemala and Honduras. The former was

easily conquered, but the leader of the army in Honduras rebelled, and one of Cortes' most famous exploits was his march overland, through a wild and desolate country, to punish the rebels and complete the conquest.

22. A great man is never without enemies, and Cortes' enemies in Spain were unceasing in their efforts to overthrow him. Ponce de Leon was sent out to Mexico, but died shortly; two others followed him to take over Cortes' offices. At last he went home to Spain to plead his own cause. He triumphed, was ennobled by the emperor, and returned to Mexico, having been granted a title and immense possessions in New Spain.

23. He at once recommenced his explorations and settlements. He went to the Pacific coast, built two vessels, and discovered Lower California, where he planted a settlement. Once more his enemies at home had him recalled; once more he set out for Spain. He arrived early in 1540, and spent the last seven years of his life in fighting at court for his rights. He lived in poverty and neglect, but at last obtained permission to return to the scene of his great triumphs. While he was making ready to sail he fell ill, and died at Seville, in December 1547, aged sixty-one years.

DE SOTO.

1. Hernando de Soto, a Spanish nobleman, was born at Barcarrola about the year 1500. While still a youth he sailed with Pedrarias to the West Indies and Nicaragua. He made a great reputation in Peru, where he fought most valiantly under the great Pizarro, was counted one of the twelve conquerors of that country, and ranked among the great captains of Spain. He won a great fortune which, on his return, he spent lavishly and became a favorite of the Emperor Charles V. He is described as being "a little above the medium height and having an agreeable though somewhat swarthy face. He was a skilful horseman, dexterous in all warlike exercises, of strong constitution, fitted to endure hardships, and of ripe experience in the conduct of Indian campaigns. He was surrounded by all the glitter and pageantry of a rich nobleman, displaying the magnificent gifts the Inca Atahualpa had lavished upon him."

2. His success in Peru aroused the desire to continue a career of conquest, and he obtained from Charles V permission to win for Spain the southern portion of the continent of North America. He expected to discover wealth greater than the fabulous riches of Peru, which had aroused the covetousness of all the adventurers of his day. For gain men were eager to risk wealth, position and life itself. De Soto risked and lost.

3. In order to accompany him men sold their lands and other possessions to help in fitting out the expedition which was expected to reap for them a rich harvest. Others resigned official positions to go in

person to seek the gold and precious stones about which the wildest stories were circulated. All was ready by April, 1538, when a fleet of ten vessels sailed from San Lucas. Even then "many who had sold their goods remained behind for want of shipping."

4. De Soto reached Cuba, of which he had been appointed Governor, in May, and took a whole year to complete his preparations for the descent upon the coast of Florida. His armament was as follows: six hundred men-at-arms, fully equipped, two hundred and thirteen horses, a large number of hounds to chase fugitives, and an immense herd of swine for food. There were also priests, surgeons and mechanics, forges for making and mending armor, chains, and slave-collars. This was to be no peaceful mission, but a war of invasion, with all the cruelties and horrors of that age, involved in the lust of gold.

5. The expedition landed in Tampa Bay on the 28th of May, 1539, and De Soto took formal possession in the name of the emperor. Three exploring expeditions were at once sent out. One returned, bringing in a Spaniard who had been captured twelve years before, and had almost forgotten his mother tongue; another brought back news of gold in a province called Cale, in the extreme north-west of Florida. De Soto sent back his fleet to Cuba for provisions, and in August set out upon his great journey.

6. From the first the Spaniards met with immense difficulties. Everywhere the Indians were hostile, and so cunning that they could not easily be captured, and food was hard to obtain in sufficient quantities. By the time they had reached Apalache Bay the soldiers

demanded to be taken home, and De Soto had much trouble to control them. His inflexible will triumphed, and finding no gold he set off on a long journey to the north-east, following the Indian trails.

7. Everywhere he went he adopted the sternest measures with the natives. Wherever it was possible he seized the person of the chief, whom he kept a prisoner until he had passed through his territory and had caught another. The captured natives were chained to the Spaniards, and made to do the menial work of the camp; whenever they escaped they were chased by blood-hounds and torn to pieces. In his dealings with the chiefs De Soto displayed a cunning that completely overmatched them. In battle he showed courage that commanded the admiration of his men.

8. By the end of October they had travelled as far as Apalache, near the present city of Tallahasse, where they went into winter quarters. Here a captured Indian told De Soto of a rich country far to the north, ruled by a woman, which was rich in gold and pearls. Thither he set out in the spring of 1540, after sending messengers to Cuba to order provisions to be sent during the summer to Pensacola Bay, two hundred miles to the west.

9. The march was arduous in the extreme. It was a country of swamps and marshes and great pine forests. Nearly all the Indian captives had died in the winter, and the indolent Spaniards had to do the work of slaves. After two months of toil and a march of twelve hundred miles they reached the Indian town they were aiming for, on the Savannah river, on the north-east borders of Georgia. They were hospitably entertained by the

Indian queen, who presented De Soto with a large number of pearls. In return for her hospitality he kept her as a hostage for the good conduct of her people.

10. De Soto had as yet found no new Peru. Though bitterly disappointed he determined to continue his march, refusing to listen to the demand of his chief followers to return, or even to send back any news of his expedition to Cuba until some notable success had been achieved. Taking with him the Indian queen he set out towards the north-west, reaching the town of Xualla after a month's march of seven hundred and fifty miles through the present State of South Carolina and into Tennessee. From here he turned south-west, exploring the northerly portion of Georgia and resting at an Indian town in that country, where the captive queen escaped with her pearls.

11. No gold being found, the wearied army pursued its way into the present State of Alabama, where, almost in the centre of it, a rest of a month was taken. This country was, at that time, the richest De Soto had as yet explored, and the most densely populated. The Indians, too, were friendly and invited the Spaniards to settle upon the land. But their eyes were ever fixed upon the Eldorado of gold and gems, and nothing could tempt them from the quest.

12. They now turned southward, towards Pensacola Bay, where supplies and reinforcements were to meet them. It was the middle of October when they reached Mavilla, a short distance north of Mobile Bay. Here they were attacked by a strong force, and lost eighteen men killed, and seventy wounded. All their extra clothing and medicines were burnt up, and De Soto

was badly wounded. By this time one-sixth of his forces had been destroyed.

13. He stayed a month at Mavilla, and heard that supplies were awaiting him at Pensacola, distant only a few days' journey. The intense pride, as well as the indomitable spirit of De Soto was now apparent. He knew that he could no longer control his men if once they saw the ships; he had no good news to send home; therefore, he deliberately turned his back upon succor, and began another long march to the north-west, through the present State of Mississippi.

14. At the end of November he reached Chicasa in the northern part of the state, and wintered there. His men suffered untold hardships; their swine were stolen by the Indians; another fire destroyed most of their remaining possessions, and burned to death the only Spanish woman in the army. They were obliged to make clothing of dry ivy and straw, woven together.

15. In April, 1541, De Soto again marched north-west, and on the 2nd of May he came to the banks of the Mississippi, and looked for the first time upon that mighty stream. He is believed to have reached its banks not far from the present city of Memphis. He camped there for a month, building barges for the crossing, a mile in width; and then journeyed to the north, searching for the gold country of which he had been told. He stopped at Pacaha, in the centre of the present State of Tennessee for forty days, sending out search-parties to seek the gold lands, and, if possible, a passage to the South Sea.

16. Nothing but disappointment rewarded these untiring efforts, and the Spaniards were obliged to retrace

their steps for about two hundred miles. Another rumor of gold reaching them, they travelled the same distance to the west far into Arkansas; thence slowly south again, with much toil and loss, into Louisiana, where they found the first salt they had tasted for over a year, and rested a month.

17. Again a rumor of gold reached De Soto, and again he made a march of several hundred miles southward parallel to the Mississippi. In December he reached a large Indian town called Autiamque, where he stayed for the winter.

18. The army was now in dire straits. In April, 1542, De Soto determined to make his way to the sea. Search-parties were sent out to obtain information as to the quickest route, but in a week returned without any news. De Soto fell ill, worn out with cares and disappointments. From his death-bed he directed the last attack upon his Indian foes, which was completely successful. He died on the 26th of May, 1542. His Portuguese biographer said of him that he was one "whom fortune advanced, as it useth to do others, that he might have the higher fall." Had he been successful his name would have had its place beside Cortes and Pizarro, for he was their equal as a leader of men.

19. The sufferings of his army did not end with his death. They tried to march overland to Mexico, and many of them perished in the attempt. They finally returned to the river and descended it in barges which they constructed. It took seventeen days to reach the gulf, and it was September, 1543, before they arrived in Mexico, with the loss of more than half their numbers.

CHAMPLAIN.

1. SAMUEL DE CHAMPLAIN was perhaps the most noted discoverer in the history of Canada. He was a man of warm-hearted and generous nature, gave all his talents to the work to which the king appointed him, and did not seek his own ends. He was an ideal explorer.

2. He was born in 1567 at Brouage, a seaport on the Bay of Biscay. In early life he was an officer in the French army, and after the war received a pension from Henry IV. But he hated idleness, and went on a journey to the West Indies, afterwards going to Mexico, and thence to Panama. It is interesting to note that, on his return, he advocated building a ship-canal across the isthmus. The account he wrote of his voyage, and the maps he made, proved his fitness for important undertakings.

3. Since the days of Cartier Canada had been deserted by the French. But now De Chastes, Governor of Dieppe, wished, in his old age, to do some notable deed for the glory of his country. His thoughts turned to Canada, and he determined to found a colony there, and to send out missionaries to convert the heathen. Pontgravé was appointed to lead the expedition, and Champlain went with him as geographer to the king.

4. They sailed from Dieppe on the 15th of March, 1603, in two vessels of ten and fifteen tons, not larger than fishing boats. Owing to gales, and great masses of ice, it took them forty days to reach Tadoussac. They visited Quebec, but Stadacona was no more; they sailed

up the great river to find that the once flourishing Hochelaga had disappeared; only a few wandering Indians remained. Champlain tried to force his way up the great rapids of St. Louis, but could not succeed.

5. On his way home he explored the Saguenay for the first time, and also organized a party to examine the southern shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, calling at Gaspé and Mal Bay, both important fishing stations for Europeans at that time. The northern shore was also explored, after which the two little ships were loaded with furs, and returned to France on the 20th of September, 1603. In their absence De Chastes had died.

6. Next year Champlain joined an expedition under De Monts, which was sent to establish a colony in Acadie, the name then given to the whole coast from Nova Scotia to Philadelphia. The object was to seek a mild climate for the settlers, and to control the fur-trade. Champlain at once began his explorations. He sailed along the shores of Nova Scotia, crossed the Bay of Funday, and ran along the New Brunswick coast. He discovered the harbors of Annapolis, and St. John, and the River St. Croix.

7. In the autumn De Monts returned to France, but Champlain remained in the colony for three years, continuing his explorations and perfecting his maps. He made a thorough examination of the coast from Nova Scotia to Vineyard Sound, visiting the Indian settlements on the mainland, and writing glowing reports of the fertility of the soil. He was truly a pioneer. There was not at that time a single European settlement on the coast from Nova Scotia to Mexico, and no explorations had been made; though, before he

finished, he found an English ship engaging in the same work. He arrived in France in October, 1607, having made a thorough examination of over a thousand miles of coast.

8. In 1607 Champlain returned to Canada with the title of Lieutenant-Governor over a new and permanent settlement to be made there. His first object was to build a strong fort, to guard against enemies, to control the fur-trade, and to protect what he thought was the route to China. He settled upon Quebec, and there built his fort. The place was probably named by the Indians, as the Indian word "quebec" means a strait.

9. Champlain was left to spend his first winter in Quebec with twenty-eight men. Some half-starved Indians camped near them. Before spring came they were all ill with scurvy, and by May only eight were alive. In another month Pontgravé, to the joy of the survivors, sailed up the river. He agreed to stay in Quebec and allow Champlain to make a journey to the West, to try to find the longed-for passage to China.

10. An Indian chief came to ask Champlain to help the Hurons and Algonquins against the fierce Iroquois, who lived to the south of Lake Ontario. He consented, and set out at the end of June, and made his way to the mouth of the River Richelieu. Here his boat was stopped by the rapids, so he sent it back to Quebec, and with only two white men and sixty Indians he made the portage, and proceeded in canoes, until he reached the beautiful lake that still bears his name. They now paddled at night for fear of enemies, eventually reaching the head of the lake. Here the Iroquois

met them and a fight ensued. Champlain killed two chiefs, and wounded a third, with one shot. It was the first time the Indians had seen or heard fire-arms, and they fled in dismay. Champlain and his allies did not delay in the Iroquois country, but returned immediately to Quebec. Thus began the Indian warfare that was to rage fiercely in after years.

11. Champlain spent the next year in France, where his discoveries aroused the attention of the nation to Canada, and its fur-trade. A stronger company was soon formed, and Champlain back again in Canada, arranging with his old allies, the Hurons, to visit the great lakes, in return for his aid against the Iroquois. A great fight occurred at the mouth of the Richelieu in which all the Iroquois were killed, but Champlain was called back to Quebec, and, later, to France by the death of the king.

12. Next year he again returned to his labors. As the Indians did not come in great numbers to Quebec, he fixed upon Montreal as a suitable place for a trading-post, and began at once to build, many traders soon following him there. He gave the town its first name, Place Royale, and, to protect it from the floods and floating ice in the spring, he made the first bricks ever manufactured in Canada, and built a strong wall.

13. Rival traders now began to threaten the life of the infant colony, and Champlain was obliged to go to France to seek some means of restraining them. He succeeded in forming a new company, with Prince Condé at its head. Before returning to Canada, a French interpreter who had spent a winter on the Ottawa, arrived, and reported that there was a way to

the ocean beyond the great lakes. It was arranged that Champlain should once more try to find the way to China.

14. He set out in May, 1613, with four Frenchmen and one Indian, and journeyed up the Ottawa, nearly losing his life in the Carillon rapids. Champlain thus describes the difficulties of a long portage: "We had a hard march; I carried for my share of the luggage three arquebuses, three paddles, my overcoat, and a few *bagatelles*. My men carried a little more than I did, and suffered more from the mosquitoes than from their loads. After we had passed four small ponds, and advanced two leagues and a half, we were so tired that we could go no farther, having eaten nothing but a little roasted fish for nearly twenty-four hours."

15. He travelled as far as the islands of the Allumettes, but there the interpreter who had told of the great salt sea beyond the lakes confessed that his story was false, and Champlain retraced his steps. His disappointment was great, but his stay among the Ottawa Indians produced a great result; his large heart had gone out to them in pity, and he determined to bring out missionaries to convert them to the Christian faith. Near to his own town of Brouage was a convent of Récollet friars, a branch of the great order of the Franciscans. Champlain succeeded in getting the king and the pope to establish a mission of these friars in Canada, and he brought out several of them to begin the great work.

16. One of these missionaries, named Le Caron, filled with ambition to serve God, went up the Ottawa with a band of Algonquins in the spring of 1615, and, shortly

afterwards, Champlain followed with twelve companions. This time he made his greatest journey. In spite of the greatest labors in passing frequent rapids, of lack of food, and of the pest of mosquitoes, which caused him intense suffering, he reached Lake Nipissing, where at last he rested at an Indian village.

17. He then paddled down French River, and came out upon the broad waters of the Georgian Bay, which Le Caron and he were the first white men to behold. Here was met a band of Indians, who escorted him along the eastern coast of the bay to where Parry Sound now stands, and thence to the present Penetanguishene. A few miles inland he came to Otouacha, the central city of the great Huron tribe, where he met Le Caron faithfully laboring in his distant and lonely mission.

18. Champlain was received with joy by the Indians who expected the help he had promised against the Iroquois. After visiting five fortified villages a great war-party set out for the Iroquois country. They crossed Lake Simcoe, turned east, and travelled rapidly by the chain of lakes and rivers to the mouth of the River Trent, stopping only for a great deer-hunt. Thence they crossed Lake Ontario, which Champlain saw for the first time, and journeyed inland to Lake Oneida, where they came to a large Iroquois town. Here a great battle took place, in which the Hurons did not distinguish themselves; and, when their leader was wounded, they were forced to retreat. Champlain suffered tortures in being carried for many days in a basket on the back of an Indian. Soon after he was again able to walk he was lost in the woods for

three days, and nearly perished in the bitter November weather. By the time they had reached Otouacha winter had set in.

19. During that winter Champlain made several journeys, one of them into the West, through the present counties of Grey and Bruce. In the spring he returned to Quebec. Here he found that rival interests had nearly ruined the colony. Once more he returned to France, where the great Richelieu was now in supreme power. Under his control was formed the famous Company of One Hundred Associates, of whom Champlain was one. It began in 1628 its work of re-settling the colony.

20. About the same time war broke out between France and England, and a small fleet equipped by London merchants determined to seize the French colony and fur-trade. Quebec was besieged, the vessels coming to its aid captured, and Champlain was forced to surrender. He was taken to London and held as a prisoner of war for several weeks.

21. After the war Quebec was restored to the French, but it was not until 1633 that Champlain was able to obtain help for his little colony, and once more to cross the ocean. He spent the last two years of his life working hard to accomplish his two great objects; first, to protect the Canadian Indians against the Iroquois, and thus obtain their friendship and trade; and, secondly, to convert them to Christianity. On Christmas Day, 1635, at the age of sixty-eight, he died in the fort he had built at Quebec, after twenty-seven years of toil in the interests of the new land to which he had devoted his life.

BRÉBEUF.

1. JEAN DE BRÉBEUF was one of the devoted band of French missionaries who went out with the first Canadian colonists to preach the Gospel to the heathen. He came of a noble family; was a man of immense strength of body, and firmness of will; and was filled with a deep love of his fellow-men. Giving up the ease and pleasures of his life at home he came to Canada to devote himself to the conversion of the Indians.

2. After studying the Huron language at Quebec he was sent in July, 1633, with two other priests, Daniel and Davost, up the Ottawa. He followed the route of Champlain and LeCaron. The journey of nine hundred miles was made in canoes, and the priests barefoot, and unaccustomed to paddling and the rough work of the portage, suffered no small hardships. With great toil they reached Lake Nipissing, paddled down French river, and along the coast of the Georgian Bay, arriving at their destination at Thunder Bay a month after leaving Quebec. They were well received by the Indians, who helped them to build their house and chapel; and the mission made a favorable beginning.

3. Let us see them in their home. The house was built of poles stuck into the ground close together, and covered on the outside with bark. Differing from an Indian house, which was one long room, it was divided into three; one outside room, a hall and place for storage; the other, the chapel. The living room between had the fire on the ground, with a hole in the roof for the escape

of smoke. At the sides were two large platforms on which they kept their clothing, and under which they slept on sheets of bark, covered with skins.

4. The Indians were delighted with two things they had never seen before—a hand-mill, and a clock. The latter they called the Captain, and, hearing it strike, thought it was alive, and asked what it ate, and what it said. "When he strikes twelve times," answered Brébeuf, "he says, 'Hang on the kettle,' and when he strikes four times, he says, 'Get up, and go home.'" Thus the missionaries got a quiet hour to themselves in the evening.

5. Brébeuf found the work of converting the Indians to Christianity an almost impossible task. The constant answer of the chiefs was, "Your religion is good for the French, but we are a different people." He directed most of his effort to teaching the children, and to caring for the sick and dying. In other ways he was of much service to the Hurons. They lived in perpetual fear of the Iroquois, and would flee to the woods on getting news of a war-party. He taught them how to build strong forts, and procured for them a few muskets.

6. All went well with Brébeuf and his companions so long as the Indians were free from trouble; but when sickness or famine visited them they accused the priests of being the cause of it. When a long drought threatened the crops in 1655, they blamed the red cross on the chapel; when disease entered their towns the lives of the missionaries were no longer safe.

7. In 1636 the pestilence fell upon the Huron towns and with it the small-pox. Careless of contagion, Brébeuf and his companions went about from village to

village, giving their simple medicines—often only sugar-water and raisins—and trying to comfort the sick with the consolations of religion, and, where possible, to baptize them before death. When the people were dying in great numbers a council was called, and Brébeuf was asked, "What must we do that your God may take pity on us?" He answered:—

8. "Believe in Him; keep His commandments; abjure your faith in demons; take but one wife, and be true to her; give up your superstitious feasts; renounce your assemblies of debauchery; eat no human flesh; never give feasts to demons; and make a vow that if God will deliver you from this pest you will build a chapel to offer Him thanksgiving and praise." The stern demands of the faithful priest met with no acceptance; the Indians turned for help to their sorcerers.

9. These men, who looked upon the priests as their natural enemies, spread the report that they had introduced the pestilence. Everything about the mission was suspected. A small streamer, fastened on top of a tree to show the direction of the wind was said to send forth the disease. Brébeuf had to stop the clock, as its striking was thought to be the signal of death. He and his companions were threatened with sacrifice; their destruction was openly advocated at a great council.

10. It was a custom among the Hurons for a man condemned to give a parting feast. Brébeuf, determined to show the Indians that he was not afraid to look death in the face, gave a farewell feast for himself and his friends. When the guests were seated Brébeuf preached to them as they ate. His words were received with scowls; each guest, when he had finished his repast,

rose and departed without a word. For some days Brébeuf lived in suspense, unable to tell what his fate would be. Then the clouds of suspicion began to roll away, and friendliness was slowly restored.

11. In November, 1640, Brébeuf set out on a mission to the Neutral Nation, which occupied the Niagara Peninsula. These Indians were among the most ferocious in North America, so that they were left in peace between the Iroquois and the more peaceful tribes to the west and north. Brébeuf visited eighteen of their towns, and was in danger of his life wherever he went. Only fear of the French kept the Neutrals from destroying him.

12. "Go out and leave our country," said an old chief, "or we will put you into the kettle and make a feast of you." And another, "I have had enough of the dark-colored flesh of our enemies; I wish to know the taste of white meat, and I will eat yours." After a terrible experience of hunger, cold, and harsh treatment during four months, Brébeuf was obliged to return. We must admire the zeal and courage and Christian fortitude which made the missionary ready to suffer even torture and death in such a cause.

13. For some years he continued to labor among the Hurons. But this tribe, numerous though they were, were doomed to destruction by the ruthless Iroquois. Brébeuf found the Hurons harassed by them when he first arrived; he was to fall in their final onslaught. Year by year they made it more and more impossible for the Hurons and Algonquins to go down the Ottawa to trade, so that at length the missionaries became isolated from their friends in Quebec. To add to the

power of the Iroquois, the Dutch at Albany provided them with guns, thus rendering them irresistible to other tribes.

14. Latterly the priests had made many converts. The Hurons, decimated by the pestilence, and in constant dread of their foes, became willing to listen to the exhortations of the missionaries. Thus men in trouble turn to God. The accounts of the work in the missions sent to Quebec were full of joy at present success, and of hope for the future.

15. In the summer of 1648 a large band of Iroquois invaded the Huron country. They first attacked the large town, called by the French, St Joseph. Most of the men were away hunting. Father Daniel, who had come to the mission with Brébeuf, was there, and urged the people to flee, while he calmly remained. He put on his vestments and bodly came out of the chapel to meet the Iroquois. They stood for a moment in surprise, and then pierced him with a volley of arrows and bullets. The little church was set on fire, and his body thrown into the flames.

16. In March, 1649, they returned in greater numbers, captured the town of St. Ignace, and attacked St. Louis, where were Brébeuf and Lalemant. The Indians begged them to escape, but Brébeuf indignantly refused. After a bloody battle the Iroquois, twice beaten back, were victorious, and all within the town were taken. It was set on fire, and most of the captives were burned to death.

17. A more dreadful fate was reserved for the heroic missionaries. They were stripped, bound with thongs, driven naked, and flogged with sticks, two miles back

to St. Ignace. There Brébeuf was bound to a stake. He began to speak words of comfort to his people, when the savages rushed upon him, cut away his lower lip, and thrust a red-hot iron down his throat. As he refused to show signs of pain, they brought out Lalemant, that Brébeuf might see his brother tortured. They tied strips of bark covered with pitch around him and set fire to them. He called out to Brébeuf with his last breath, in St. Paul's words, "We are made a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men."

18. The torturers now hung a collar of red-hot hatchets around Brébeuf's neck, but he maintained his silence. Then in mockery of Christian baptism they slowly poured boiling water upon his head, crying, "We baptize you that you may be happy in Heaven." Still the hero stood steadfastly looking upon them with the face of an angel. Enraged, the Indians cut strips from his flesh, and devoured them in his presence. At last they scalped him, and, piercing his side, came to drink his blood, that they might acquire his marvellous courage.

19. Thus died Brébeuf, adding a martyr's crown to a life of self-sacrifice, freely spent in the service of God, for the conversion of the savage tribes that once claimed this land for their own.

DAULAC.

1. In the early days of the French colony in Canada the settlers lived in constant dread of sudden attacks from the savage Indian tribes who dwelt to the south of Lake Ontario and the upper St. Lawrence. They were composed of five distinct nations: the Senecas, Cayugas, Onondagas, Oneidas and Mohawks. They were united by the closest ties of friendship, and were known by the common name of Iroquois. In war they were noted for their fearless courage and for the ferocity with which they treated their prisoners. The Canadian Indians, Algonquins in Quebec, and Hurons in Ontario, were peaceful tribes, and consequently suffered constantly from the inroads of the Iroquois.

2. In the winter of 1659 several hundred Iroquois hunted on the Ottawa, intending to waylay the Hurons as they came down that river in the spring to trade at Montreal. They expected to win an easy victory, and then to make a daring attack upon Montreal itself.

3. At this time the commander of the garrison at Montreal was a young man named Adam Daulac, an officer in the French army. His youth had not been without reproach, and his reputation was such that he felt he must clear himself by some act of daring that would restore his good name in the eyes of his fellows. He asked permission of the Governor, Maisonneuve, to lead a small number of his followers up the Ottawa to attack the Iroquois wherever they might be found. Maisonneuve well knew the peril of such an enterprise; but the general dread of the secret and furious onslaught of these cannibals at last caused him to consent.

4. Daulac induced sixteen young men of the place to join him; they all swore to give and take no quarter, and set out cheerfully to what, even to the most sanguine, seemed certain destruction. In the old parish register of Montreal are carefully preserved to this day their names, and a statement of their callings, and of the property they possessed. The little band was made up of soldiers, mechanics and settlers, all young men.

5. They set off up the Ottawa in April, 1660, and toiled hard for several weeks at the unaccustomed labor of paddling, till they reached the Long Sault rapid. There they decided to lie in wait, sure that the Indians must pass that point. They were shortly joined by forty Hurons, who had been challenged by an Algonquin chief to perform some deed of daring. Daulac chose for his encampment a ruined fort, made in a former year by the Indians. It consisted of an enclosure of young trees palisaded together in a circle. The camp was soon in order, prayers were daily offered up, and scouts kept a sharp look-out for enemies.

6. After a few days two canoes were seen descending the rapid. Daulac at once posted his men among the bushes by the river and gave them a volley as they came abreast. One or two of the Iroquois escaped and fled to the main body who were up the river. Without delay two hundred of them came rushing upon Daulac's party. They were met by a steady fire and forced to fall back, but only into the surrounding forest, where they built a fort, and began to match their cunning against the resolute purpose of Daulac.

7. While their fort was building, the French bent all their energies to strengthening their ruined palisade.

They made an inside fence of heavy stakes and filled up the space between it and the outer wall with six feet of earth and stones, leaving loopholes here and there, from which to fire upon their foes. The Iroquois left them not long in peace. To prevent escape they broke up the French and Huron canoes and with the pieces attempted to set fire to the stockade. But though they attacked again and again with the utmost fury, so many of their braves were shot down that they were forced to desist.

8. The Indians now held a council, and decided to send to the Richelieu River for five hundred allies, who were awaiting their coming to join in a simultaneous attack upon the three principal Canadian towns: Quebec, Three Rivers, and Montreal. While the messengers were gone they kept Daulac and his men imprisoned in the fort by firing upon it incessantly. This went on for five days, during which the Frenchmen suffered agonies of thirst and hunger. They suffered, too, the loss of their forty Huron allies, who, hearing that a great Iroquois force was coming, went over to the enemy. Only their chief and four Algonquins remained true to Daulac.

9. At length the reinforcements arrived, and no time was lost in making assault upon the garrison, which now numbered only twenty-two, and of whose exhausted condition they were well aware. But those seventeen white men had sworn never to surrender, and they were prepared to make the Iroquois pay full price for their lives. They had plenty of ammunition, and some musketoons, which fired pieces of iron and lead, and did great execution at close quarters. So deadly was this fire that the Iroquois could not stand it, and were once more driven out of range.

10. Three more days slowly dragged their length along, days of slaughter among the Indians, of exhaustion without relief, and of prayer without earthly hope, for Daulac's little band. The Iroquois were completely baffled, and talked of going home, but determined first to try a general onslaught. And now a grievous accident to Daulac lent them the success they could not win of themselves. He was in the act of firing a musketoon, doubly charged, into their midst, when it exploded, killing several Frenchmen and wounding and blinding others. In the confusion the Indians seized some of the loopholes and fired through them upon the defenders. In a moment they made a breach in the wall and swarmed into the enclosure. Daulac, rushing to defend the breach, fell fighting amongst the foremost. His men, true to their promise never to be taken alive, fought so furiously, that the Iroquois, who had hoped to capture them for torture, were obliged to fire volley after volley, until not a man was left standing.

11. The forty Hurons did not escape the reward of their treachery. The Iroquois burned some of them, with the three Frenchmen in whom a spark of life remained, and carried the others to their towns for a more dreadful fate. Five escaped and lived to tell the tale of Daulac's brave defence of the fort.

12. Thus Daulac fought a great fight, and led out a body of enthusiastic followers to certain death. But he saved his country from a dreadful invasion. So great was the Iroquois loss that they thought no more of attacking Montreal; but the seven hundred went home, feeling dejected and disgraced at the blow they had received at the hands of seventeen resolute white men.

LA SALLE.

1. The Mississippi was discovered by De Soto who perished upon its banks and was buried in its muddy stream. Almost a hundred years later Jean Nicollet, a French Canadian, discovered one of its northern tributaries, the Wisconsin, and the exploration of the West soon followed.

2. René Robert Cavelier, Sieur de la Salle, was born at Rouen in 1643. His father was a wealthy merchant, and he received a sound education, especially in mathematics, of which he was fond. When he was twenty-three he left France to join his brother in Canada, and there to seek his fortune. He received a grant of land at Lachine, where he built a fort, and prepared to trade with the Indians. Within three years he mastered seven or eight Indian languages and dialects. From what the Indians told him he began, like Champlain, to dream of a passage to China and its uncounted riches. He went to Quebec and obtained leave from the governor to explore the country to the west.

3. From his first expedition to the day of his death he was engaged in exploring the great West land. He went through as many adventures and hardships as would fill a book in the telling. In this sketch we can only state the main outline of his achievements.

4. He sold his property at Lachine, bought four canoes, hired fourteen men, and started on his travels on the 6th of July, 1669. On the 2nd of August he entered the broad expanse of Ontario, "the beautiful lake,"

and landed in a bay on the south shore. Here he was met by some Indians who took him twenty miles inland and promised to show him the way to the Ohio river. He found that these Indians meditated treachery, and, escaping from them, paddled up the lake until he came to its head, where two friendly natives conducted his party to an Indian town, near the present city of Hamilton. Here he met Joliet returning from the upper lakes, the first man to pass the Strait of Detroit.

5. At this point he parted from two priests who were going to the upper lakes, and for the next two years there is some uncertainty about his movements. The only account we have says that he secured guides at Onondaga, south of Oswego, journeyed inland to the west until he came upon a branch of the Ohio river and descended that stream to the rapids at Louisville; that there his men deserted him, and that he found his way back alone. The same account says that in the next year, 1670, he crossed Lake Erie, journeyed up the Detroit river into Lake Huron, made his way into Lake Michigan, landed at its head and found the Illinois. Following this river he entered the Mississippi, which he was the first to discover. This latter statement is doubtful, as the honor of the discovery of the upper Mississippi is claimed for Nicollet, Joliet and Marquette. Of one thing we are sure, La Salle became convinced that the Mississippi emptied itself not into the Gulf of California but into the Gulf of Mexico. His dream of a way to China was over; but its place was taken by the conception of a glorious empire for France bounded by the great lakes and the mighty river flowing south.

6. When Frontenac came to Canada as governor he helped the young enthusiast in every way in his power. He entrusted him with the important undertaking of establishing a fort upon Lake Ontario, and of pacifying the threatening Iroquois. Fort Frontenac not only kept the Indians quiet, but cut off the fur-trade from the English to the south. When La Salle went to France in 1674 he obtained with the consent of Frontenac a grant of this fort and surrounding lands from the king. Had he been a mere trader he could have reaped a great fortune; but he had higher ambitions.

7. After spending four years in clearing his land, placing settlers, and training his men, La Salle went again to France to interest the court in his great scheme for exploring and settling the country west of the lakes. He set forth in glowing terms its immense extent, its beauty and fertility, its richness in wild cattle, hemp and cotton; the colonizing of such a land would add a new empire to the crown of France. He obtained permission to explore the country, to build forts, and to seek a way to the Gulf of Mexico. He also obtained the services of a lieutenant, in the person of Henri de Tonty, a brave and skilful officer, who became his able and devoted ally. He was also successful in raising for his undertaking half a million francs.

8. While the expedition was preparing, La Motte and Father Hennepin went on before to the Niagara River to seek a suitable spot for encampment and for the building of a vessel to carry the explorers upon the lakes. La Motte built a palisade house below the mountain ridge at Queenston, and here La Salle and Tonty came with their men at the end of December,

1678. Their vessel had been wrecked on the shores of Lake Ontario, and most of their supplies for the journey lost. La Salle fell ill with inflammation of the eyes, and was obliged to return to Fort Frontenac.

9. When he recovered he at once returned to his labors, and while the *Griffin* was building in Cayuga creek he erected a fort at the mouth of the Niagara. It was August, 1679, before he was ready to sail, owing to troubles at Fort Frontenac, where his enemies had seized his property. Only a man with a will of iron would have proceeded under such circumstances; but nothing could deter La Salle from an enterprise once begun.

10. It took three days to sail the length of Lake Erie. When the voyagers got into the Detroit river they found abundance of game, which they hung around the bulwarks of the ship. In Lake Huron they met with a furious storm, and for a time gave themselves up for lost. They sailed past Mackinaw and Manitoulin, and at length came to Michillimackinac, where there was a trading-post and Jesuit mission, and a large Indian town. In September they made their way into Lake Michigan, and anchored in Green Bay, where they were welcomed by friendly Indians.

11. The *Griffin* was now sent back to the Niagara for supplies, while La Salle, with fourteen men, proceeded along the Wisconsin shore. After a week's toil in heavy weather they were obliged to land through hunger. In an empty Indian village they found a store of corn, for which they left goods in exchange. At the head of the lake they found game, and soon afterwards Tonty, who

had followed by the eastern shore, appeared with twenty men.

12. December was approaching, and La Salle anxiously awaited the overdue *Griffin*. Sending back two men to meet her at Michillimackinac he started with thirty-three up the St. Joseph river. In trying to find the path to the Illinois he was lost in a snow-storm for a day and a night. While making the portage of five miles one of his men actually raised his gun to shoot him. This was the second attempt upon his life, the first consisting of poison which an enemy put in his food just before he left Fort Frontenac. In the midst of such dangers did he prosecute his undertaking.

13. At the beginning of their journey on the Illinois they found no game in the bitter weather, and were at starvation point when they discovered a huge buffalo mired in the mud. Passing Buffalo Rock on the right, and a cliff, afterwards called by them "Starved Rock," on the left, they came to a great Indian town, whose inhabitants were away on the autumn hunt, where they obtained provisions. They proceeded as far as the present city of Peoria, where they were welcomed by Illinois Indians, who at first were friendly.

14. But serious trouble now arose. Other Indians came in who were strongly opposed to the French, and especially to their proposal to reach the Mississippi. La Salle's men could no longer be trusted. Poison was again placed in his food, and six of his men deserted in one night. He saw that he was in peril, and determined for the present to go no further. Choosing a hill in an isolated spot he built a strong fort—Crèvecœur. A worse blow to the enterprise was

the loss of the *Griffin*, which La Salle believed to have been treacherously sunk, and her valuable contents rifled.

15. Most men would have given up in despair; La Salle was only spurred on to further effort. He began with his own hands to saw the planks for a vessel in which to navigate the great river below; he sent Hennepin to explore the Illinois to its mouth; and in March, leaving Tonty to guard the fort and finish the ship, he set out with four men on a perilous journey of two thousand miles back to Fort Frontenac.

16. In a letter he speaks of "the danger of meeting Indians of four or five nations, through whose country we were to pass, as well as an Iroquois army, which we knew was coming that way; though we must suffer all the time from hunger; sleep on the open ground, and often without food; watch by night, and march by day, loaded with baggage, such as blanket, clothing, kettle, hatchet, gun, powder, lead, and skins to make moccasins; sometimes pushing through thickets; sometimes climbing rocks covered with ice and snow; sometimes wading whole days through marshes where the water was waist-deep or even more, at a season when the snow was not entirely melted—though I knew all this it did not prevent me from resolving to go on foot to Fort Frontenac to learn for myself what had become of my vessel, and bring back the things we needed."

17. He reached Fort Frontenac on the 6th of May, 1680, having travelled incessantly for sixty-five days—"the most arduous journey ever made by Frenchman in America." He found that all his property had been seized, and that men and means sent out to him from France had been lost. Early in July a letter came from

Tonty, saying that nearly all the men left with him had deserted, after destroying the fort and throwing into the river all the arms and goods they were unable to carry off.

18. In spite of the ruin around him La Salle stood to his task undaunted. By the 10th of August he again started for the West with twenty-five men and a full equipment. This time he stopped at Toronto, went up the Humber, passed through Lake Simcoe, and descended the Severn to the Georgian Bay. Early in November he once more reached the spot where he had left Tonty, but found that the Iroquois had been there and had left no trace of living man.

19. La Salle went on down the river, hoping for tidings. He saw the fearful devastations of the fierce invaders, but no sign of any Frenchmen. Journeying on, he at length beheld the Mississippi—goal of his desires. His men offered to go on down to the gulf, but La Salle would not give up hope of rescuing Tonty, and they retraced their steps, with great difficulty and suffering, to Fort Miami, on the shores of Lake Michigan, which they reached late in December.

20. The winter was spent by La Salle in gathering the scattered Indians together and uniting them against the Iroquois. In the spring he determined to return once more to Canada to fit out a new enterprise. In May he reached Michillimackinac, where to his great joy he met Tonty, who had made a marvellous escape from the Iroquois, and had spent the winter at Green Bay. Together the companions made their way in canoes to Fort Frontenac, where La Salle succeeded in pacifying for a time his creditors, and in securing new supplies for another attempt to reach the Gulf of Mexico.

21. Once more he journeyed westward with Tonty, thirty men and a hundred Indians, going by way of Toronto and Lake Simcoe as before, and reaching Fort Miami in November. This time they found a new route to the Illinois by way of the Chicago river; but they were obliged to draw the canoes on sledges until they found open water below Peoria. On the 6th of February they entered the Mississippi. Space will not permit of details of the memorable voyage down that great river. The weather grew balmy, the Indians were friendly, and the voyagers reached the salt water at the gulf on the 9th of April, 1682.

22. La Salle had at length realized the dream of his life. He erected a cross, bearing the arms of France, and the words, *Louis le Grand, Roy de France et de Navarre, Regne; le Neuvieme Avril, 1682.* His men joyously fired off their muskets and sang the "Te Deum." La Salle named the new land "Louisiana."

23. On his way back he was taken dangerously ill and was left behind at a fort on the river, and it was not until September that he reached Lake Michigan. He then set about planting a colony on the Illinois to hold the land and protect the friendly Indians against the Iroquois. He stayed there for over a year, and then returned and sailed for France to obtain help for the infant colony.

24. He was received with favor, and assistance was granted by the king in fitting out an expedition to go by way of the Gulf of Mexico and up the Mississippi. It sailed from Rochelle on the 24th of July, 1684. After a voyage of two months the vessels neared the coast; but La Salle did not know the longitude of the

river, and though he searched long he could not find its mouth. It was a fatal misfortune. Unwittingly he passed it, and after quarrels with his fellow officers he finally landed far to the west, at Matagorda Bay.

25. Then began a long wandering in an unknown land, seeking for the great river. Deserted by the vessels, La Salle and his colonists strove in vain to reach the object of their search. He was several times very ill; but in spite of fever, disappointment, desertion, and mutiny, his courage never failed. It was at last decided that a few men should accompany him on a final effort to reach the river. For this purpose he bought some horses from the natives. But even this picked body of men contained traitors. On the morning of the 18th of March, 1687, as La Salle was making ready to begin another day's journey, he was shot through the brain by one of his followers.

26. He was only forty-three years of age. His life had been spent in hardships which few could have endured. Without thought of self, with total disregard of temporary failure, with a firm faith in God, and in his own indomitable will, he pursued the great object of his life till he saw its fruition; and he yielded up that life, as he had been prepared to do a hundred times before, for the good of his country, and in furtherance of its interests. As Tonty truly said of him "he was one of the greatest men of this age."

FATHER HENNEPIN.

1. One cold and stormy morning, the 18th of November, 1678, two bold and enterprising men, with sixteen attendants, set out upon the stormy waters of Lake Ontario from Fort Frontenac in a little ten-foot vessel. They were the advance party of a more numerous body of adventurers whose leader, La Salle, had formed the plan of extending the dominions of his master, the King of France, westward to the Mississippi, and thence down that mighty river to the Gulf of Mexico.

2. The little vessel, crowded with so many men, was tossed about upon the rough bosom of the lake for eight days. At last the voyagers reached an Indian town near where Toronto now stands, and ran their ship into the mouth of the River Humber. Their intention had been to go straight to the Niagara River, but the wintry winds kept them on the north side of the lake. During the night they were frozen in, and had to cut their vessel out with axes. After another day and night of battle with the wind they reached the mouth of the swift Niagara on the 6th of December. There they found a small band of Indians who looked in wonder at the vessel, and at the hardy voyagers, kneeling on the shore, singing the "Te Deum" and offering thanks to God for their safe arrival.

3. The leaders of this little band were La Motte, one of La Salle's officers, and Father Louis Hennepin, an adventurous friar, who afterwards wrote the history of this daring expedition. Their object was to ascend the

Niagara, of whose marvellous Falls they had heard, but which they had never seen, and on the upper river to build a new vessel to carry them, by the lakes, to the point nearest to the headwaters of the Mississippi. Father Hennepin was just the man for such an undertaking. He was strongly made and capable of great endurance. From the days of his boyhood he had loved and longed for foreign travel, and this led him to offer himself as a missionary to Canada, where he might be certain not only of stirring adventures, but also of a life of the hardest bodily toil.

4. Father Hennepin was one of those hardy pioneers who seem fitted by nature to be a forerunner of civilization. He was a Franciscan monk, and was sent by his superior to Calais to beg for alms from the sailors at the season of herring-fishing. "Often," says he, "I hid myself behind tavern doors while the sailors were telling of their voyages. The tobacco smoke made me very sick at the stomach, but I listened attentively to all they said about their adventures at sea and their travels in distant countries. I could have passed whole days and nights in this way without eating."

5. In 1675 he got permission to go to preach to the heathen in the far distant and savage missions of Canada, and sailed with La Salle. On his arrival he was sent up to Fort Frontenac, then a wild and remote post. No sooner was he settled than he began to delight himself with journeys of exploration. In the winter of 1677 he crossed the eastern end of Lake Ontario on snow-shoes, and travelled south into the country of the Mohawk Indians. He afterwards took great delight in writing the story of the hardships he had endured.

Next year, 1678, he undertook to find a path from the eastern end of Lake Erie to the head waters of the Mississippi, and to prepare the way for the great expedition that La Salle was getting ready.

6. Hennepin began the ascent of the swift Niagara in a canoe. After travelling eight or nine miles, he came to the great ridge which rises from the top of the banks to twice their height, and stretches away on either side, for many miles. Here the river narrows suddenly, and from this point no vessel can ascend the fierce-flowing rapids. Hennepin landed on the Canadian side of the river, climbed the bank to where the village of Queenston now stands, and then ascended the thickly-wooded steep, where one hundred and thirty-five years later Brock fell in the battle of Queenston Heights.

7. From here the explorer marched along the river bank through a densely-wooded forest of oaks and maples, seven miles of solitude unbroken save by the rushing torrents beneath. He skirted the great, silent whirlpool, and then heard for the first time the thunderous roar of the cataract in the distance, accompanied by the shriller but less majestic noise of the whirlpool rapids at his feet.

8. He had heard before of the great Falls of Niagara from the reports of the missionaries who had visited the Neutral Indians in 1640, but if they had ever seen it, none of them had described it. Hennepin was now to see for himself, and, first of all men, to describe for us the view that burst upon his sight as he emerged from the dense forest, and, standing upon the edge of the precipice, looked down upon that foaming torrent as it hurled into the abyss below the waters of the mighty lakes. At

last were satisfied the longing for strange and thrilling scenes which had filled the breast of the missionary-explorer, who, when a lad, had listened at tavern doors in the French sea-port town to the descriptions of the sailors.

9. After gazing long in silence at the vast volume of water gliding smoothly, but with irresistible power, over the sharp ledge, and then falling with terrific force into the chasm which itself had made, he clambered down the dangerous bank and got as close as he could to the mountain of foaming water. It seemed to him that he was in another world, until he looked across the water-worn valley, and saw, above the chasm, the trees looking dwarfed upon the brink, and the blue sky over his head.

10. We need not be surprised to find Hennepin, in his enthusiasm, exaggerating the size of the great cataract. He first wrote that it was five hundred, and afterwards six hundred, feet high. He also said that there was room for four carriages to pass abreast under the American Fall without getting wet. His description is otherwise very accurate. He mentioned Table Rock, now destroyed, and also a fall on the Canadian side facing the American shore. This, too, has disappeared as the river has gradually receded.

11. When La Salle and his party joined Hennepin they made a great camp above the Falls, and set about building a large vessel in which to sail upon Lake Erie. This was the *Griffin*, of forty-five tons burden, the first ship to sail those waters. In her La Salle was able by September to reach Lake Michigan. He then marched overland to the Illinois, and took his men some distance

down that river in canoes. But owing to desertions he was obliged to give up all thoughts of further progress. He built a fort to shelter them for the winter and sent Hennepin, with two attendants, to explore the Illinois to its mouth.

12. Hennepin succeeded, after many hardships, in paddling to the juncture of the Illinois and Mississippi. He then attempted to ascend the latter, but was soon captured by the ferocious Sioux Indians. They took him to their camp, near to the present city of St. Paul. Thence his captors started with him to their homes to the north, travelling at great speed, and forcing him to keep up by setting fire to the grass, with the wind blowing behind them. After trying his courage and endurance the Sioux adopted him into their tribe, and he lived among them for several months.

13. Hennepin at length managed to escape from the Indians by promising to go to his friends and send back a large party to trade with them. They took him back to the Mississippi and gave him a canoe. With one companion he paddled one hundred and eighty miles down the river, catching turtles for food. At one time they went hungry for forty-eight hours, and when they at last killed a deer they ate so much that they fell ill, and for two days could make no progress.

14. Once again they were near to starvation, but this time they were saved by a party of Sioux hunters, with whom they lived for some time. Hennepin was finally found by four Frenchmen, who were exploring the river, and with them he slowly descended Lakes Huron and Erie to the Falls of Niagara, which he again stopped to examine. From there he paddled to Fort Frontenac,

where he was received with great rejoicing. Stories had come of his being murdered by the Indians. Father Hennepin soon after returned to France, and wrote the history of his travels.

15. His is not a great name in history, but he is a type of the early explorers of this continent, forerunners of the civilization that was soon to follow.

FRONTENAC.

1. Louis de Buade, Comte de Frontenac, was the godson of Louis XIII of France. He was born in 1620, and lived at court until he was fifteen years of age, when he went to the war in Holland to serve under the Prince of Orange. For the next thirteen years he was constantly engaged in fighting; he was made colonel at twenty-three, and brigadier-general at twenty-six. In 1648 he married a high-spirited lady of the court; but Frontenac's temper made him a difficult person to live with, and his wife soon separated from him. For several years he lived a somewhat reckless life, and wasted what wealth he had. In 1669 he made a considerable military reputation in commanding the Venetian troops against the Turks. In 1672 the king appointed him Governor of New France.

2. Frontenac came to Canada a ruined man. He at once set to work to repair his shattered fortune. He built Fort Frontenac in order to monopolize part of the fur-trade, and, naturally, made many enemies. The first ten years of his rule in Canada was taken up with violent quarrels with the intendant, the bishop and other officials; so that in 1682 the king was obliged to recall him.

3. During the years of his retirement the colony of New France dwindled away. The growing power of the Iroquois made them a terror to the French as well as to the Canadian Indians. Armed by the Dutch they became irresistible in war, and almost destroyed the Western tribes who traded with the French. The town

of Quebec was also ruined for some years by a disastrous fire, and its trade paralyzed by the Eastern Iroquois.

4. Feeling their power it became the purpose of the Iroquois Nation to divert all the fur-trade through their own territory to the Dutch and English. This was the secret of La Salle's failure to plant colonies on the Illinois and Mississippi. Frontenac had, before he left Canada, obtained great influence with the Iroquois, and had tried to stem their yearly encroachments; but he retired just when he was most needed.

5. Succeeding governors made war upon the Iroquois, but without other result than stirring them to revenge. In August, 1689, a large war-party descended in the night upon Lachine, and began a frightful massacre of the inhabitants. They set all the houses on fire and butchered men, women and children. Two hundred were fortunate enough to be slain on the spot; but one hundred and twenty were carried off. On the next night the Iroquois were seen at their camp-fires, torturing, roasting and devouring their captives. Most of them, however, were distributed among the Indian villages and there tortured for the amusement of their captors.

6. There was despair in the French colony. Trade ceased; famine threatened; James II of England had been succeeded by William of Orange, and there was war between England and France; and no help was forthcoming for the stricken colony.

7. Frontenac was again made Governor of Canada. He arrived at Montreal soon after the massacre of the settlers. To his dismay he learned that the fort at Niagara and his own Fort Frontenac had been destroyed

by his predecessor. He wrote home: "So desperate are the needs of the colony, and so great the contempt with which the Iroquois regard it, that it almost needs a miracle either to carry on war or make peace." Nevertheless, though he was now seventy years old, he set to work with all his former vigor to retrieve the losses the colony had suffered.

8. His first object was to restore his influence with the Iroquois. But they were now too deeply involved with the English and Dutch, and treated his embassies with disdain. There was nothing left but to show them that the power of France was still supreme. With great boldness he planned three attacks upon the English. The first, consisting of about two hundred men, was sent to strike at Albany. It set out on snow-shoes in the depth of winter, and after an arduous march reached Schenectady in February, 1690. A night attack took the terrified inhabitants by surprise. Sixty persons were put to death and nearly a hundred captured. The Iroquois prisoners were treated with kindness and released, in order to bring waverers over to the French side. The victors, laden with booty, made a safe return.

9. The second expedition left Three Rivers for New Hampshire at the end of January. It numbered barely fifty in all, and spent three months tracking through the wintry wilderness of Maine. At the end of March it reached the settlement of Salmon Falls, where was a fortified house, with two stockade forts. About thirty New Englanders were slain, and fifty-four made prisoners. While returning it was overtaken by a force of one hundred and fifty, but beat them back and continued on its way home until it met Fron-

tenac's third war-party going from Quebec to attack the English at Fort Loyal, now the city of Portland. This place was besieged and taken after a stubborn defence, and a large number of the luckless inhabitants were massacred by the Indians.

10. These successes roused the drooping spirits of the French, and made them eager to follow Frontenac's lead, but the Iroquois did not submit as he hoped. They succeeded in getting the English to join them in a combined attack upon Canada. Montreal was to be attacked by land and Quebec by sea. The force intended for the invasion by land gathered at Albany and slowly made its way up Lake Champlain. But it was attacked by dysentery and smallpox, and its effective numbers daily decreased.

11. Frontenac was awaiting the enemy at Montreal, when a great band of friendly Indians from the far West arrived, laden with their furs. It was a grand triumph for the governor to have succeeded once more in opening the great avenue of trade. He made a solemn treaty with the Indians, and ratified it by seizing a hatchet, singing the war-song, and dancing the war-dance. It was the first time a governor had put off his dignity and placed himself on a level with the chiefs; but it had a marvellous effect. They all swore to be true to the death. In a few days came another glad surprise. The English expedition, harassed by the smallpox and the quarrels of its chiefs, melted away.

12. Frontenac now hastened to meet a new danger at Quebec. Sir William Phips had arrived with a fleet of thirty-four ships, coming round from Boston, and retaking Fort Loyal on his way. He expected Quebec

to fall without much resistance; but Frontenac had spent the previous winter in fortifying the place on all sides, and treated with contempt his summons to surrender. The attack was carried on for several days with great boldness; but Phips knew nothing of the art of war, and Frontenac, though old in years, fought with all the vigor of youth, and had lost nothing of the military prowess that in earlier days had won him a European reputation.

13. When Phips had expended all his ammunition he found himself no nearer success than when he began, and after a week's fruitless fighting he was obliged to sail for home. Frontenac was hailed as the saviour of Canada, and was rewarded by the king. Next year he had still much fighting to do against the swarming Iroquois war-parties; but his men were so filled with enthusiasm for, and belief in, the governor that they drove the savages back at all points, and once more a great fleet of canoes, laden with furs, brought prosperity and happiness to Montreal. Frontenac was called "Father of the People, Preserver of the Country."

14. The great military governor had been fighting all his life, and he was to fight to the end. After all danger of invasion had passed war was still waged, in the East for the possession of Acadia and Newfoundland, in the West for control of the fur-trade, upon which the very existence of the colony depended. In Acadia the French were assisted by the friendly Abenaki Indians; and, after varying successes on the part of English and French, both by land and sea, the country remained in the hands of the latter. Iberville conquered Newfoundland, and drove the English from Hudson's Bay, so that the fur-

trade in the North was, for the time being, protected and extended.

15. Frontenac's chief anxiety centred in the great West. So long as the power of the Iroquois, supported by the English, remained unbroken the fur-trade was in danger, and upon it depended the existence of the French possessions in North America. He determined to strike a blow at the heart of the Iroquois confederacy.

16. On the 4th of July, 1696, he set out from Montreal with over two thousand men. He crossed Lake Ontario from Fort Frontenac and marched to the fortified town of Onondaga—the present city of Syracuse. The aged governor, seventy-six years old, was carried in an arm-chair, from which he directed the operations. The savages would not stand to fight, but set fire to their town and fled. After devastating the country, and taking many prisoners, Frontenac returned from his last fight in triumph. The result was far-reaching. Iroquois depredations came to an end, and, though Frontenac did not live to see a treaty of peace signed by them, it was the first work accomplished by his successor.

17. His health now rapidly failed, and late in the year 1698 he was seized with a mortal illness. He died in Quebec on the 28th of November. One who knew him well, wrote: "He was the love and delight of New France; churchmen honored him for his piety, nobles esteemed him for his valor, merchants respected him for his equity, and the people loved him for his kindness."

MADELEINE DE VERCHÈRES.

1. THE courage and boldness of Frontenac, who returned to Canada as Governor in 1689, at a time when the colonists were in a state of despair, roused them to imitate his example in dealing with the Indians. No other story of bravery at that time is so willingly preserved by Canadians as that of the defence of the fort at Verchères by the little daughter of the seignior. Her name was Madeleine, and she was only fourteen years of age.

2. Verchères was on the banks of the St. Lawrence, a few miles below Montreal. The fort was erected to protect the settlers; and joined to it by a closed passage was a blockhouse, as additional means of defence. For several years the fierce, man-eating Iroquois had roamed the Canadian forests, attacking weak posts, and carrying off, to torture and sacrifice, helpless women and children. It was a time when people lived in daily fear of their lives.

3. One morning in October, 1692, a strong party of these savages suddenly burst out of the forest upon the fort at Verchères. The settlers were all at work upon their farms, the seignior and his wife were away, and the only persons in the fort were Madeleine, her two little brothers, some women and children, two soldiers, and one very old man. She was down at the river talking to a servant when the Indians began firing. Alarmed at the shots, she began to run towards the gate, and then saw between forty and fifty of them racing to catch her. She shouted the alarm as she ran,

hoping for help to keep her pursuers in check until she could get in, but none came. She managed, however, to reach the gate without being hit by the flying bullets, pushed into the fort two women, who were wailing and crying out that their husbands had been killed, shut the gate and drew the heavy bolts. A yell of rage showed that the Iroquois were for the moment baffled.

4. Madeleine was a child of very unusual qualities. She was possessed not only of fearlessness but also of presence of mind and great executive ability. The position of affairs was full of peril for herself and her little brothers, as some of the palisades had fallen down and the Indians could easily get in, and the two soldiers had run away to the blockhouse and had hidden behind some barrels. There the brave girl found them, with lighted matches ready to blow the place up as soon as the Indians got in. She soundly rated them for cowards, drove them out of the blockhouse, and forced them to help to make the fort secure. Fortunately the Indians did not know how few and helpless were its defenders, and so for a time kept away.

5. Probably all children in those days were familiar with fire-arms; at any rate Madeleine gave a musket to each of her brothers, aged ten and twelve, and took one herself; and these three, with the two soldiers, began firing steadily upon the savages. They also managed to fire off one of the cannon, in order to make their enemies believe that the fort was strongly held. It certainly had this effect, for they did not attempt an assault.

6. In the afternoon a settler with his family paddled up the river to seek the shelter of the fort. As neither

of the soldiers would venture out, Madeleine herself went down to the landing and helped the woman and her children to win the gate in safety.

7. Night came down cold and stormy, and the north-east wind brought snow and hail, and the lurking savages were heard prowling around the fort. There was no sleep for anyone nor any thought of rest. Madeleine kept with her in the fort her brothers and also the aged man, and sent the others into the block-house. Her parting words were, "You go to the strongest place; God has saved us this day and I am not afraid. But should I be taken, never surrender, even though you should see them burn me in the fire. If you resist they cannot capture the blockhouse." All night through the imprisoned ones kept calling to one another; so that the Indians made sure there were too many defenders for an assault to be successful.

8. When daylight came it brought fresh courage to Madeleine and her weary garrison. The fact that they were still alive filled them with hope that they might be able to hold out until relief should come. Some of the women had not yet recovered from their terror and begged to be taken to a place of safety; but the coolness and courage shown by Madeleine made the men promise to defend the fort to the last. For the sake of other small forts, where settlers could run for safety, it was absolutely necessary that the Iroquois should not be allowed to capture even the most weakly defended, or the whole country would soon be over-run. Madeleine, young as she was, understood this perfectly.

9. She instructed her young brothers in the art of taking aim with their muskets, and trained them to stand

at the sentinel's post to give warning of any danger. The remainder of the little garrison had each his proper post; and all was cheerfully done under the command of this young girl, who bravely kept a smiling face. She stuck to her task like a veteran, stopped not to eat for two days, did not lie down for two nights, and did not go into her own house, but made her rounds of the fort and blockhouse and kept watch continually.

10. The siege was maintained for a week, the Indians afraid to attack, but always on the lookout for stragglers to or from the fort. At length an officer came down the river with a company of soldiers. Madeleine at the time was sitting at a table, her head upon it, her arms supporting her head and her gun resting upon her arms. She was dozing, when she heard the sentinel cry, "Qui vive?" She rushed to the barricade and found to her joy that her deliverers had come. The gate was opened and she went down to the river to welcome the canoes. The officer inspected the fort and found a sentinel at every post; the young girl had managed the defence as well as he could have done it himself.

11. The Iroquois were thoroughly hunted out of their lairs in the woods and some of them were caught. They were filled with rage and shame when told that they had for a week been kept at arms length by a young girl of fourteen. Madeleine received a pension from the Governor of Canada for her heroic conduct, and was asked to write out a full account of her defence of Verchères; and thus the story has come down through more than two hundred years.

IBERVILLE.

1. PIERRE LE MOYNE D'IBERVILLE was a man of our own soil. In his day he proved his right to stand among the most eminent men who worked out the destinies of Canada, and his name will always find a prominent place in the pages of her history.

2. He was the third son of Charles Le Moyne, who came from Dieppe and settled in Montreal. There were nine sons, most of whom took a prominent part in the affairs of the country. Pierre was born in July, 1661. His father sent him, with two of his brothers, when he was about fifteen years of age, to France to be trained for the navy, and while there he showed signs of the hardihood and skill in performance of duty that afterwards distinguished him.

3. The brothers returned to Montreal in 1684 and were at once employed by the governor in various undertakings. In 1686 an expedition was sent overland to Hudson's Bay to drive out the English, whose encroachments upon the fur-trade began to be serious. The three brothers, Iberville, Sainte-Hélène, and Maricourt, accompanied it as guides and interpreters. There were in those days three known routes to Hudson's Bay; first, by the Saguenay and Lake St. John; secondly, by Three Rivers and the St. Maurice, and thence by streams flowing north; thirdly, by the Ottawa and Lake Temiscamingue. They chose the third to avoid the Iroquois and the danger of giving warning of their approach to the English.

4. How came the English there? They felt that, owing to the discoveries of the Cabots and the subsequent yearly expeditions sent out to Newfoundland by the merchants of Bristol, they had the right to secure some of the trade of the American continent. In 1664 Charles II granted to his brother, the Duke of York, the territory now included in New York, New Jersey and Delaware, which was taken from the Dutch. In 1670 he granted to Prince Rupert and his associates a monopoly of the trade of the Hudson's Bay Territory.

5. Hudson's Bay had a previous history of its own. In 1576 Frobisher tried to force a passage that way to China, as he did twice afterwards. A few years later Davis penetrated into the Arctic Circle. Henry Hudson explored the region in 1607 and the two following years, and in 1609 he lost his life through the treachery of some of his men. Sir Thomas Button explored the bay later in the same year and called the land to the west New Wales. After him, in 1611, came Baffin, and twenty years later Captain James wintered in the bay now called by his name.

6. How did Prince Rupert's Company come into existence? Two Frenchmen named Radisson and Groseilliers, in their wanderings in the lake country, had heard of the vast riches of the northern fur-trade and of a route to Hudson's Bay from Lake Superior. On their return to Quebec they tried to induce the governor to help them form a company to control this trade; but when the company was formed they were not admitted as members. The result was that they went to England, and interested Prince Rupert and other enterprising men, who fitted out the *Nonsuch* and sent her to the bay.

She landed at the mouth of Rupert's River in September, 1668, and here the first fort was erected to protect the adventurers through the winter. The *Nonsuch* returned next year with a load of furs, the Hudson's Bay Company was formed, and King Charles granted it a royal charter.

7. Charles Bailey was appointed governor, and with him were Radisson and Groseilliers, to manage the Indians and conduct the barter. No sooner had they commenced operations than the French took alarm. Talon, the Intendant at Quebec, sent two men with six Indians on a long journey to Hudson's Bay to find out what the English were doing, and to induce the northern Indians to bring their furs to Quebec. They were the first white men to penetrate so far north.

8. Their arrival caused the greatest uneasiness to Radisson and Groseilliers, who were already unjustly suspected by Bailey. Frequent quarrels arose, and at last both men were obliged to leave Fort Charles. They made their way back to Quebec by land, and their story roused the French to the danger of losing the prize of the northern fur-trade. Thus began the rivalry between England and France for the possession of the North American continent. So far as trade was concerned the advantage was with England. The French attempted to control the trade by fetching the furs overland to the St. Lawrence—an almost impossible task. England sent her ships into the heart of the fur country and planted a market at the hunters' doors.

9. In 1685 there were five trading-posts established on the bay. In the next year De Troyes set out with Iberville and a large war-party of over one hundred men to

destroy them and assert once more the supremacy of France. They journeyed up the Ottawa and proceeded by way of Lakes Temiscamingue and Abbitibi to a stream flowing into James' Bay. Moose Factory, defended by only sixteen men, was easily captured. Iberville chased the Company's sloop, marching over a hundred miles along the shores of the bay, and took the governor and his men prisoners. At the same time his brother St. Hélène assaulted Fort Rupert. After some trouble Fort Albany was also taken and destroyed. Iberville wished to complete the conquest of the whole bay; but Fort Nelson was over seven hundred miles distant, and it was thought wiser to return for the present. De Troyes and Iberville reached Montreal with a trophy of fifty thousand beaver skins, carried by their English prisoners, and were received in triumph.

10. Iberville was sent back to Hudson's Bay to drive away any English who attempted to land. He found there an English ship, which he captured and burned, and a new fort, many miles west of the places captured by the French two years before. He destroyed this fort and marched back to Fort St. Anne—called by the English Fort Albany—where he found two English ships stuck fast in the ice. They had come to establish a new trading-post, and to contest the ground with the French. Iberville attacked the English, who had almost finished a new fort, and forced them to surrender. The two vessels also fell into his hands. Leaving his brother to guard the French posts he sailed with all his prisoners in one of the ships to Quebec.

11. The Treaty of Ryswick restored peace for a time. It gave to the French the forts and posts Iberville had

captured in his first invasion of the bay. But the French trade was a failure. They had no ships and the fur-trade in Hudson's Bay was only profitable by water. Iberville determined that Fort Nelson, by far the most profitable trading-post, must be wrested from the English. Through the influence of Governor Denonville he obtained from the King of France a commission in the royal navy and the promise of two ships for his proposed undertaking in 1694. In the meantime, the Hudson's Bay Company sent out three armed vessels in the spring of 1693, and succeeded in retaking from the French all the forts at the foot of the bay.

12. Iberville arrived with his two vessels before Fort Nelson in September, 1694. He bombarded the place for three weeks, when the governor was obliged to yield to escape destruction by fire. There was much loss of life on both sides, including Iberville's brother. In the following July, Iberville returned to Quebec with his prisoners and peltries. In 1696 the Company sent out another armed expedition which again captured Fort Nelson.

13. During this year Iberville was busy fighting the English elsewhere. Early in spring he sailed from Quebec under orders from Frontenac to attack the seaports on the New England coast. At the mouth of the St. John two small English ships were beaten off, and he then sailed to Pemaquid, an important post, which he assaulted and destroyed. He intended to attack Boston, but stormy weather rendered his plans futile, and he departed to Newfoundland.

14. Here he was joined by other vessels, and a combined attack was made upon the port of St. John.

After a furious assault it was taken and burned to the ground. Iberville determined to conquer the whole island. Though it was mid-winter he set out with one hundred and twenty-five men and some Indians. There was no English force upon the island; but Iberville marched up and down for two months pillaging and burning the fishing hamlets. By the spring of 1697 they were all destroyed and over two hundred persons slain.

15. In 1697 he returned to Hudson's Bay with five ships of war. Here he met the three English vessels that had retaken Fort Nelson the year before. A desperate sea-fight took place, in which two of the English ships were sunk, while the third escaped. Iberville's own vessel was wrecked and went to pieces. Against his formidable fleet Fort Nelson was helpless and soon surrendered. It remained in the hands of the French until 1713, when, by the Treaty of Utrecht, the whole of the Hudson's Bay Territory was ceded to England and the great Company obtained undisputed possession.

16. Iberville's career in Canada was now ended. His reputation stood high in the court of France, and he was chosen to command an imperial enterprise. The explorations and adventures of La Salle had filled the minds of himself and his brothers with the idea of finding the mouth of the Mississippi, which La Salle had missed, and of founding a colony to control its trade and perhaps find the wealth of a new Peru.

17. He went to France and obtained the favor of the king, who fitted out an expedition which left Brest in October, 1698. Arriving in the Gulf of Mexico in

December he carefully explored the coast and at last found the mouth of the river on the 13th of February, 1699. He went up stream with a few men, in two boats, for about a hundred miles, when he met with Indians wearing garments given them by Tonty. He pursued his course for three hundred miles, but was then obliged to turn back, owing to scarcity of provisions. On reaching the mouth of the river he received from some Indians a letter which Tonty had left for La Salle in case he ever passed that way.

18. Iberville built a rude fort at Biloxi, left there seventy-five men under his young brother Bienville, and returned to France. He was back again at the end of the year, completed the fort, and made further explorations. In 1702 he was knighted and made commander-in-chief of the colony of Mississippi. He earned for himself the title of the "Father of Louisiana." His brother became the founder of New Orleans.

19. He died in 1706 of a fever caught at Havana. He had been brought up to a life of adventure, and he and his brothers were engaged in all the dangerous enterprises in the Canada of their time. No hardship was too great for Iberville; no difficulty was allowed to stand in his way. He is a bright example of the hardy, vigorous, and intelligent Canadian of the romantic days of Frontenac.

WOLFE.

1. JAMES WOLFE was born in Kent in 1727. His father, Colonel Wolfe, was a soldier of merit. He was a brigade-major in Marlborough's army in 1708 when only twenty-three years of age. From his earliest years James Wolfe had a passionate love for the army, which never died out. When he was thirteen and a-half years old his father was appointed to an important post in the expedition sent to Cartagena, and James determined to go with him as a volunteer, in spite of his mother's protests. Only a severe illness prevented his father from taking him; and so he went back to school.

2. Two years later, however, he induced his father to obtain for him a commission in the Marines, which was soon afterwards exchanged for one in the Twelfth Regiment of Foot, and in April 1742 he carried its colors when it was inspected by George II before leaving for service against France. Thus early in life did the future hero of Quebec desert his books to enter the service of his country. In appearance he was plain, not to say ugly; when he attained his growth, over six feet in height; his shoulders round and narrow; his limbs long and ungainly; his forehead and chin both receding; his nose pointed and turned up; his cheek-bones high and prominent; his hair of the reddest.

3. His first campaign—on the Rhine—was marked by the beginning of that chronic ill-health to which he was subject all his life. But the spirit of the lad conquered every weakness, and at once brought him into notice, so that at sixteen he found himself adjutant of his

regiment. Wolfe fought his first fight on the field of Dettingen, the last battle in which an English king led his troops in war. The French commander had drawn the English and their allies into a trap. On their right was a mountain range; on their left was a rapid river, so that they were virtually enclosed by their foes who numbered sixty thousand. George II determined to force his way through the village of Dettingen, which lay ahead.

4. Wolfe wrote to his father a very graphic account of the fight. The French cavalry first charged the English infantry. They rode up, fired off their pistols, hurled them at the foe, and then charged sword in hand. They were cut to pieces by the Scotch Fusiliers, and hardly twenty of them escaped. Wolfe then saw the French and English cavalry charge each other, in which the latter were defeated and scattered, but the French coming on, and attacking the infantry, half of them were destroyed by the furious fire which met them. The last attack, he says, was made by the foot on both sides. Wolfe's regiment having lost its chief officers was commanded by a major and himself, and it was nearly ruined through firing too soon. But they quickly recovered themselves, and joined in the last furious onslaught which drove the French off the field, leaving behind them six thousand dead. He ends his letter thus: "I sometimes thought I had lost poor Ned (his brother) when I saw legs and heads beat off close by him. A horse I rode of the colonel's at the first attack was shot in the hinder leg, and threw me, so I was obliged to do the duty of an adjutant all that and the next day on foot in a pair of heavy boots." It would



MAJOR-GENERAL JAMES WOLFE.

From Bourinot's "Story of Canada."

be hard to find in the history of war a more notable performance on the part of a delicate boy of sixteen. He was promoted next day.

5. Wolfe spent the next two years of his life in Flanders, attending closely to the drudgery of a soldier's life, without any fighting to relieve its monotony. He was made a captain when he was seventeen, and was unable to get any leave of absence from his company. His health was not good, and his spirits were depressed by the death of his younger brother Ned, a most promising soldier, who died of consumption soon after getting his promotion.

6. We next hear of Wolfe in Scotland, in 1745, where he joined the army of General Wade, which was despatched to repel the invasion of Prince Charles Edward, the Pretender. Wolfe, though only eighteen, was appointed brigade-major, and he had the pleasure of serving with his father who was general of a division. The first battle in which he took part was that of Falkirk. The Scots, flushed with their former victory of Prestonpans, made a furious attack upon the English army, aided by a fierce gale and torrents of rain. The latter were saved from total rout by the regiment to which Wolfe belonged; it succeeded in beating back one wing of the Highland force, and covering the retreat of the main body of the English, who at once fell back on Edinburgh.

7. The Duke of Cumberland, Wolfe's old commander, now took command of the army, and began the pursuit of the rebels. The severity of the winter, however, obliged him to remain until the spring at Aberdeen. In

April, 1746, he overtook the rebels near Inverness, and here was fought the battle of Culloden Moor.

8. The English forces numbered about ten thousand; those of Prince Charles were considerably fewer. Wolfe's regiment occupied a post of honor on the left of the line. The Scots wished their enemies to attack first, but the havoc made by the English cannon so goaded them that clan after clan broke from the line and flung themselves with all their Highland fury upon the foe. In the centre they broke through the first line of the English, but Wolfe's regiment stood fast and beat them back. The battle lasted only about a quarter of an hour: the Scots having failed in the onfall could not stand the steady push of battle. Yet in those few minutes the slaughter was great. Wolfe's regiment lost one hundred and twenty officers and men killed and wounded out of three hundred. Nearly fifteen hundred Highlanders were left dead upon the field.

9. There is a story told of Wolfe which cannot be verified, but which his admirers love to preserve. The Duke of Cumberland was riding over the field, accompanied by Wolfe, when he saw the savage looks of a wounded Highlander bent fiercely upon him. "Wolfe," said he, "shoot me that Highlander scoundrel who thus dares to look on us with such contempt and insolence." "My commission," answered Wolfe, "is at your Highness' disposal, but I can never consent to become an executioner."

10. In 1747 Wolfe again accompanied the Duke of Cumberland to Flanders, where the war with France had again broken out. In July of that year he was wounded in the battle of Lanffeld, where he greatly distinguished

himself, and was publicly thanked for his services. Soon afterwards he obtained leave of absence, and visited his parents, with whom he celebrated his twenty-first birthday. He had already served in seven campaigns—a veteran at twenty-one!

11. In 1749 Wolfe was sent to Scotland in command of a regiment to pacify the discontented districts. Here he spent considerable time doing work that was distasteful to him; he longed to go to the continent of Europe to study war in the school of Frederick the Great, the most renowned soldier of his age. But permission was refused, and Wolfe, feeling his ignorance, attended the University of Glasgow, and worked hard at Latin and Mathematics. His health, however, was bad, and, indeed, he seems to have felt very strongly that his life was to be a short one, and hence his eagerness to crowd it full while the opportunity remained. On his twenty-fifth birthday he wrote to his mother: "The winter wears away, and so do our years, and so does life itself, and it matters little where a man passes his days, and what station he fills, or whether he be great or considerable, but it matters to him something to look to his manner of life. It is worth a moment's consideration that one may be called away on a sudden, unguarded and unprepared, and the oftener these things are entertained the less will be the fear of death."

12. The next five or six years were spent by Wolfe in garrison towns in Scotland, and chiefly in England. He was looked upon as one of the best officers of his rank. He spent one winter in Paris, but the general monotony of his life made him long for active service,

and he at one time thought of offering himself to some continental army. He had a bad opinion of the state of the British army, and looked with envious eyes at the splendid condition of the Prussian forces under the great Frederick.

13. In July, 1755, came the news of the disastrous defeat of Braddock's army in America. Next year occurred the abandonment of Minorca by Admiral Byng, and war broke out with France. The great Pitt came into power in the time of England's need, and at once fitted out an expedition to attack the coasts of France. Wolfe was appointed quartermaster-general, and fourth in order of seniority. This expedition was not a success, and only Wolfe and Howe added anything to their reputations.

14. But Wolfe was now to place his reputation upon the highest pinnacle, though but two years remained to him of life. In January, 1758, Pitt sent for him, and offered him the post of brigadier in the army that was to overthrow the French power in North America. This force under the command of General Amherst, arrived at Halifax on the 10th of May, and reached Louisburg, the strongest fortress in America, on the 2nd of June. Wolfe was chosen to lead the real attack. He succeeded in landing his troops through a hot fire and a heavy surf, and after a spirited charge captured the first French battery. The other troops were thus enabled to land without danger, and the regular siege began. Wolfe, though suffering from rheumatism and other sickness, was the leading spirit in the attack, heading almost every onslaught of the English as they grew daily closer to the walls By the 26th of June the

French fleet in the harbor had been destroyed and a great breach made in the walls. The French then surrendered; nearly six thousand men were taken prisoners. In a letter to his mother after the surrender Wolfe wrote these prophetic words of our own country: "North America will sometime hence be a vast empire—the seat of power and learning. There will grow a people out of our little spot, England, that will fill this vast space, and divide this great portion of the globe with the Spaniard, who is possessed of the other half." He returned to England in October.

15. Early in the winter Pitt sent for Wolfe and offered him the chief command of the expedition against Quebec. This was, for those days, an unheard of promotion, as Wolfe held only the rank of colonel, and was but thirty-one years of age. He spent the winter months in trying to restore his shattered health, but without success; his physician told him he was more fit for the hospital than for the command of an army. His wonderful spirit carried him through everything, and made his suffering body accomplish almost the impossible. He seemed to feel that he had not long to live. In one of his letters he said: "If I have health and constitution for this campaign I shall think myself a lucky man. What happens afterwards is of no great consequence."

16. Wolfe's appointment caused great jealousy. His wonderful energy and enthusiasm aroused bitter enmity. The Duke of Newcastle told the king that Wolfe was mad. "Mad is he," said King George. "Then all I can say is I hope he'll bite some of my generals." In spite of opposition he succeeded in choosing his chief officers,

and Monkton, Murray and Townsend were appointed brigadiers.

17. The expedition sailed on the 17th of February, 1759. Wolfe was very ill during the long voyage, which lasted over two months. There was a long wait at Halifax, and it was not until the 1st of June that the fleet finally sailed for Quebec, arriving on the 26th. The French attempted to destroy the English vessels by sending fire-ships among them, but the English sailors, with great daring, boldly rowed out, and, making fast to the fire-ships, towed them out of the way.

18. When Wolfe saw the tremendous fortifications of Quebec, and its impregnable citadel, he despaired of taking it with the small force at his command. This force was under nine thousand men, while the French army numbered fifteen thousand besides Indians. But Wolfe's courage rose with danger. He knew that all England was looking on, and he determined to do or die.

19. He first issued a proclamation, calling upon the French to surrender. He next seized Point Levi, opposite Quebec; on the 12th of July the batteries began firing upon the city across the river. The French forts extended down the river from Quebec to Montmorency. Wolfe landed a force below the falls, and tried to get round behind the enemy. At the same time Carleton was sent sixteen miles up the river to cut off supplies. A messenger sent from the French camp under a flag of truce said to Wolfe: "We are determined that your army shall never get a footing within our walls." "I will be master of Quebec," replied Wolfe, "if I stay here until the end of November."

20. Then followed a month of disaster to the English arms. Seeing that he could not get behind the French at Montmorency Wolfe decided to attack them in front. On the 31st of July a terrible onslaught was made upon the French batteries near the famous falls. It was an impossible task at any time, but a deluge of rain hastened the repulse of the British. Wolfe was three times wounded by splinters, and his cane was knocked from his hand by a cannon-ball. The total loss was nearly five hundred men.

21. While waiting and watching for another opportunity to attack, the guns at Point Levi kept up their destructive fire upon Quebec, and soon the lower city was in ruins. Wolfe then fell ill with fever, and the month of August hastened to its close. The heroic leader began to fear that he would never accomplish his great task. For five days men gave up hope of his recovery, but on the 25th of the month he began to mend. By the 1st of September he was once more able to get about.

22. The condition of the English forces was now getting desperate. Autumn had come, a thousand men had been lost, and nothing had been accomplished. Again the heroic Wolfe declared that he would never return without success. Then the tide of fortune turned. Someone discovered the steep path up the high bank of the river above Quebec. It was determined to try it as a last resource.

23. On the 5th of September the general was again very ill. He told the doctor he knew he could not be cured. "Patch me up sufficiently to go through this business; after that nothing matters."

24. The brave Montcalm had successfully resisted all attacks upon the city and the batteries below it; he believed that no force could attack him from above. He said: "there was no part of the cliff that a hundred men could not defend against the whole British army." But Wolfe determined to try. At the top of the zig-zag path he had noticed upon the cliff a small group of tents marking a sentinel's post. The last orders he ever issued to his army directed "That the first body which gets on shore shall at once attack the post in front of them, and hold it till the main army comes up. The battalions are to form as rapidly as possible, and to charge whatever presents itself. Officers and men will remember what their country expects of them." How like Nelson at Trafalgar! "England expects every man to do his duty."

25. The attack was planned for the 12th of September. The night was dark, and the moon soon down. In absolute silence thirty boats filled with troops dropped down the river under shadow of the bank. Wolfe was in the foremost boat, and as it crept along he recited to his officers the lines of Gray's "Elegy." In a few hours it was to be true of him that

"The paths of glory lead but to the grave."

26. "Gentlemen," said he, "I would sooner have written that poem than take Quebec." Parkman, the historian, adds: "No one was there to tell him that the hero is greater than the poet."

27. The path was reached in safety; a small body of Highlanders soon reached the top, and destroyed the French sentries. In a few minutes Wolfe came up

followed by sixteen hundred men, and daylight broke. In half an hour four thousand five hundred men were upon the Plains of Abraham.

28. Montcalm would not at first believe the news brought him by some French-Canadians. But when he saw the thin red line stretching across the plain he at once determined to give battle, and by nine o'clock he led five thousand troops to his last fight.

29. Wolfe ordered his men not to fire till he gave the word, and they received the fire of the French standing with shouldered arms. Wolfe was shot in the arm, and men fell all around him, but when the French came to within forty yards the word rang out, and they were mowed down by a storm of bullets. Before they could recover from the confusion Wolfe sprang forward and led his men, who charged with irresistible force. Most of the French were in full flight when Wolfe was shot in the thigh. He still pressed on, but in another moment a ball passed through his lungs. "It is all over with me," he said, as he sank to the ground. He refused the help of a surgeon, and soon became unconscious. "They run! see how they run!" called out a soldier. "Who run?" said Wolfe, coming back to life. "The enemy, sir; they give way everywhere." "Go, one of you," said he, "to Colonel Burton, and tell him to march Webb's regiment down to the St. Charles river and cut off the retreat of the fugitives to the bridge." Then, whispering his last words, "God be praised; I now die in peace," he turned upon his side, and calmly, and without struggle, his heroic soul passed away.

MONTCALM.

1. Louis Joseph, Marquis de Montcalm-Gozon de Saint-Véran, was born near Nîmes, in the south of France, on the 29th of February, 1712. He came of a very old family belonging to the French nobility. During his boyhood he was fond of books, and he kept up his reading to the very end of his life. He thus wrote to his father as to his aims in life: "First, to be an honorable man, of good morals, brave, and a Christian. Secondly, to read in moderation; to know as much Greek and Latin as most men of the world; also the four rules of Arithmetic, and something of History, Geography, and French and Latin *belles-lettres*, as well to have a taste for the Arts and Sciences. Thirdly, and above all, to be obedient, docile, and submissive to your orders and those of my dear mother; and also to the advice of M. Dumas (his tutor). Fourthly, to fence and ride as well as my small abilities will permit."

2. When he was fifteen he entered the army, with a commission as ensign in a foot regiment. Two years later he became captain, and first saw fire at the siege of Philipsbourg. He fought in the war in Bohemia in 1741. In 1743 he was made colonel, and in 1745 he took part in the war in Italy, and next year, in the assault upon a town, he was wounded five times, and taken prisoner. After being exchanged he was again promoted, once more went to the front, and was again wounded. After the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle he had a rest in the country home at Candiac, which he loved so much, with his wife, mother, and children. But his reputation for courage and wisdom as a soldier

was surpassed by none in France, and in January, 1756, he was chosen by King Louis XV to command the forces in North America, and was raised to the rank of major-general. A further mark of honor at the same time was the appointment of his eldest son to command a regiment in France. On the 3rd of April he sailed for Quebec.

3. Here is an interesting extract from Montcalm's first letter home, showing what a voyage across the Atlantic was like in his day: "From the 27th of April to the 4th of May we had fogs, great cold, and an amazing quantity of icebergs. On the 30th, when luckily the fog lifted for a time, we counted sixteen of them. The day before, one drifted under the bowsprit, grazed it, and might have crushed us if the deck-officer had not called out quickly, 'Luff.' After speaking of our troubles and suffering I must tell you of our pleasures, which were fishing for cod and eating it. The taste is exquisite. The head, tongue and liver are morsels worthy of an epicure. Still, I would not advise anybody to make the voyage for their sake."

4. Montcalm arrived in Quebec early in May, making the last few miles of his long journey by land, as the river was full of ice. Soon after his arrival he went to Montreal to see the Governor Vaudreuil. The latter had been opposed to Montcalm's coming, hoping to command the forces himself. Vaudreuil was lacking in force of character; he was jealous, vain, eager to claim credit for everything that was done, though too timid or indolent to accomplish anything by himself. Montcalm was a born leader of men, hard to hold, impetuous in

action, hasty in temper. In the coming struggle the colony suffered from the lack of unity between the two French leaders.

5. Besides the regular troops and the French-Canadian militia, Montcalm had under him a large number of Indians, chiefly Hurons, Abenakis, Iroquois and Algonquins. In a letter to his mother he thus describes them: "The men always carry to war, along with their tomahawk and gun, a mirror to daub their faces with various colors, and arrange feathers on their heads and rings in their ears and noses. They think it a great beauty to cut the rim of the ear and stretch it until it reaches the shoulder. Often they wear a laced coat with no shirt at all. You would take them for so many masqueraders or devils. They make war with astounding cruelty, sparing neither men, women, nor children, and take off your scalp very neatly—an operation which generally kills you."

6. Montcalm's task was to repel the English, who threatened Canada at several points. The French had three large army camps, besides their headquarters at Montreal and Quebec; one at Carillon, one at Frontenac, and one at Niagara. He must hold himself in readiness to go to any of these threatened points.

7. Hearing that the English were coming up the Hudson intending to attack the French force at Ticonderoga, he went there with a strong force. But as they were slow in their movements he determined to make a counter attack upon the English post at Oswego. He returned from Lake Champlain to Montreal, and from there hurried to Fort Frontenac. He recalled some of his men from Niagara, and soon had a force of three

thousand. He crossed to Wolfe Island at night, lay hidden all day, and next night landed close to the English fort. After one day's siege he brought up twenty pieces of cannon, and the next day the fort was almost torn to pieces. The English made a most gallant resistance, but after Colonel Mercer had been cut in two by a cannon ball they were obliged to surrender. Their numbers were found to be fourteen hundred.

8. By this victory Montcalm obtained complete command of Lake Ontario and his communications with the West were made secure. It was so far the greatest victory the French had won over the English in America. It caused great dismay in England, and the future looked dark. Nothing more of importance was done in that year.

9. The winter was spent in Montreal and Quebec. There was much gayety, but though Montcalm was obliged to give three parties every week his letters show that he longed for the peace and quiet of his home in sunny France, and the sweet companionship of his wife and children. Here are some extracts from his letters, which show the attractiveness of his character:

10. "The affection of the Indians for me is so strong that there are moments when it astonishes the governor."

11. "The Indians are delighted with me, the Canadians are pleased with me; their officers esteem and fear me and would be glad if the French troops and their general could be dispensed with, and so should I."

12. "The part I have to play is unique; I am a general-in-chief subordinated; sometimes with everything to do. and sometimes nothing; I am esteemed, respected,

beloved, envied, hated; I pass for proud, supple, stiff, yielding, polite, devout, gallant;—and I long for peace."

13. The year 1757 was marked by a great achievement of Montcalm's, though his success was marred by a terrible outbreak of savagery on the part of his Indian allies. The French had been dreading the advance of the English by way of Lake Champlain, and Montcalm determined to meet them by attacking their fortified post at Fort William Henry, at the foot of Lake George. He gathered a great force of six thousand men and two thousand Indians who did his scouting, and who not only killed some of their prisoners, but ate them.

14. When he arrived at Fort William Henry, which, through the neglect of the English commander on the Hudson, had not been reinforced, Montcalm summoned the little garrison to surrender. But Colonel Munro determined to defend the place to the last. This he did most gallantly, but after several days' siege he was forced to despair. All his larger cannon had burst; three hundred were killed and wounded; and smallpox was raging in the place. He was obliged to surrender.

15. No sooner had the garrison left the fort than the Indians burst into it and butchered all the sick. Montcalm tried to restrain their ferocity but without avail. Next morning, as soon as the garrison left their camp upon the homeward march, the Indians set upon them and began again the dreadful massacre. Men, women and children to the number of six hundred were snatched out of the line, which then broke into the wildest confusion. The French-Canadian forces refused to protect their helpless opponents, who were obliged to flee to the woods. Montcalm succeeded in

rescuing four hundred captives from the Indians. He personally did his best to restrain his savage allies, but failed to employ his own troops to keep them under control. Fort William Henry was completely plundered and then burned to the ground.

16. In the next year Montcalm added to his reputation by defeating an assault upon his fortifications at Ticonderoga. He was in a very tight place, and could not have escaped if he had been opposed by a general equal to himself in skill. But General Howe had been killed, and Abercromby, who succeeded him, was unworthy of his position. Montcalm now reached the height of his influence and popularity in Canada, and, though the fall of Louisburg was a great blow to the French power in America, he had confidence in his forces and in his own ability to triumph over the threatened attack upon Quebec.

17. When Wolfe came up the St. Lawrence next year Montcalm prepared to meet him fearlessly, though the English in the West had at last won success by the capture of Fort Frontenac, thus adding to the growing danger of his position. He was also much harassed by the jealousy of Vaudreuil, who tried to undermine his authority, and even asked the French government to recall him. Montcalm felt that the difficulties placed in his path were more than any general could bear. He wrote to his mother soon after his victory at Ticonderoga: "Never was general in a more critical position than I was; God has delivered me; his be the praise! He gives me health, though I am worn out with labor, fatigue and miserable dissensions that have determined me to ask for my recall. Heaven grant that I may get it!"

18. He had come at last to feel that the French colony in Canada was doomed, not so much by the threatened attack of the English as by the fearful ruin caused by the rascalities of those who governed it. The poor people were starving; the army was ill-supplied; only the contractors got rich. "What a country!" he wrote. "Here all the knaves grow rich, and the honest men are ruined." Yet he would not desert it, but wrote to the home government: "I asked for my recall after the glorious affair of last July; but since the state of the colony is so bad I must do what I can to help it and retard its fall."

19. When Wolfe drew near Montcalm made his defences as complete as possible. In the preceding biography it will be seen how good they were, and how weary Wolfe became in his efforts to find a weak place in his opponent's armor. During periods of active attack Montcalm slept but little and never took off his clothes. He was weary with a long vigil when the news was at last brought to him that the Plains of Abraham had been scaled. He hastily rode to a spot commanding a view, and there he saw stretched across the plain the red lines of English infantry drawn up across the heights.

20. At such a time there was no chance for much deliberation, and Montcalm and his chief officers, sharing somewhat in the panic of the moment, determined to attack Wolfe without waiting for full reinforcements to assist in trying a combined assault in front and rear, wherein lay their only hope of success. At such a crisis Montcalm's impetuosity carried him away, and he rushed with his men headlong to destruction.

21. It is unnecessary to repeat the details of this famous fight. When the French were routed Montcalm was forced to join in the flight towards the town. Before he could enter it he was shot through the body. Two soldiers supported him on horseback into the city, and took him to the house of a surgeon. It was soon seen that he could not live. Montcalm said he was glad the wound was mortal, and asked how long he had to live. "About twelve hours," he was told, and replied, "So much the better; I am happy that I shall not live to see the surrender of Quebec."

22. When an officer came to receive his commands he said: "I will neither give orders nor interfere any further. I have much business that must be attended to of greater moment than your ruined garrison and this wretched country. My time is very short; therefore pray leave me." One last message he sent to Wolfe's successor, General Townshend: "Monsieur, the humanity of the English sets my mind at peace concerning the fate of the French prisoners and the Canadians. Feel towards them as they have caused me to feel. Do not let them perceive that they have changed masters. Be their protector as I have been their father."

23. Montcalm died on the 14th of September, 1759, in his forty-eighth year. He was buried in the chapel of the Ursuline Convent, in a grave made by a shell which burst under the floor. Visitors to the beautiful city may see the memorial afterwards erected to the memory of these two heroes of Quebec—Wolfe and Montcalm.

CAPTAIN COOK.

1. It is a matter of deep interest for Canadian boys that an important part of the life of the world's most famous navigator should have been connected with the great Dominion. This interest is all the greater because Captain Cook, like most Canadian boys, with his brain and hands carved his own fortune without help from any man.

2. James Cook was born in a Yorkshire village on the 27th of October, 1728. His father was a farm laborer, and James was employed, when a little boy, in driving off the crows from the fields. He got a little teaching for four years at the village school; but at the age of twelve he was bound apprentice to a shop-keeper. He swept out the shop, ran errands, lived on meagre fare, and at night slept under the counter. His master was hard, and flogged him without stint. When he could stand it no longer he ran away and went to sea as ship's boy in a small coasting collier. In this business he remained for thirteen years. There are no details of that period on record; he thoroughly mastered the mariner's calling in a hard school, and finally rose to be mate of a coaling vessel.

3. In 1755 a British fleet was sent to America to protect the colonies against the menace of the French, and it was known that war would soon be declared between the two countries. In those days, when men were wanted for the navy, sailors in the merchant service were seized wherever found by the press-gang. Cook's vessel was then in the port of London, and to avoid being "pressed" he voluntarily joined the crew of the warship *Eagle* as a common sailor, and left for America. We know nothing of his life during the next

four years, except that he was present on the *Eagle* at the capture of Louisburg in 1758, and that his ship returned to England early in the year of the capture of Quebec.

4. During these years the future explorer had proved his worth and ability as a practical seaman; so that, on his return to England, he was raised to the position of sailing-master in the navy, a post of considerable importance. At the age of thirty he had risen by his own efforts from cabin-boy to full master of a king's ship. But this was not all. During those four years he had spent his scanty leisure in mastering the science of navigation, so as to fit himself for a more responsible position in the future.

5. His ship, the *Mercury*, was at once sent to join Wolfe's fleet at Quebec, and Cook now won the reward of his years of study. Wolfe found it necessary to have soundings made in the St. Lawrence between the island of Orleans and the north shore, in order to take in his ships to attack the French batteries. Cook's old captain on the *Eagle* recommended him for the work. How thoroughly he did it let his biographer relate:

6. "In this business he was employed during the night time for several nights together. At length he was discovered by the enemy, who collected a great number of Indians and canoes in a wood near the water side, which were launched in the night for the purpose of cutting him off. On this occasion he had a very narrow escape. He was obliged to run for it and pushed on shore on the island of Orleans, near the guard of the English hospital. Some of the Indians entered at the stern of the boat as Mr. Cook leaped out at the bow, and the boat was carried

away in triumph. However, he furnished the admiral with as correct and complete a draught of the channel and soundings as could have been made after our countrymen were in possession of Quebec. Sir Hugh Palliser has good reason to believe that before this time Mr. Cook had scarcely ever used a pencil and that he knew nothing of drawing. But such was his capacity that he speedily made himself master of every object to which he applied his attention.

7. "Another important service was performed by Mr. Cook while the fleet continued in the river. . . . It was ordered by the admiral that Mr. Cook should be employed to survey those parts of the river below Quebec which navigators had experienced to be attended with peculiar difficulty and danger, and he executed the business with the same diligence and skill of which he had already afforded so happy a specimen. When he had finished the undertaking his chart of the River St. Lawrence was published, with soundings and directions for sailing. Of the accuracy of this chart it is sufficient to say that it hath never since been found necessary to publish any other."

8. He did not return to England until 1762. He was married at Christmas of that year, but spent only four months in his new home, being sent in April, 1763, to Newfoundland to make a survey of its shores. Four summers were occupied in taking soundings and making charts which are still used by mariners. He also explored part of the interior of the island, and in 1766 wrote a scientific paper for the Royal Society, which marked him out as a naval officer of unusual attainments. After twenty-five years of unceasing labor at

sea he returned to England fully equipped for the great undertakings which were to place his name first in the honor roll of the world's navigators.

9. In the year 1768 the Royal Society requested the king to send out an expedition to the Pacific Ocean to take observations of the transit of Venus. Captain Cook was recommended as the only available officer in the navy who combined practical skill in navigation and the scientific knowledge necessary for such a task. He sailed in the *Endeavor* on the 26th of August.

10. This first of Cook's voyages is too well known to be described in detail. He doubled Cape Horn in safety and then sailed westward, discovering several islands and landing at Otaheite, where he stayed for several months making scientific investigations. In October, 1769, he reached New Zealand, which was thoroughly explored and proved to have no connection with the great southern continent at that time firmly believed in. In April, 1770, he reached Botany Bay and followed the coast of Australia for over two thousand miles. Later on he was first to establish the fact that New Guinea and New Holland, as Australia was then called, were separate islands. He sailed for home by the Cape of Good Hope and reached England in July, 1771. His discoveries aroused the deepest interest and he was promoted to higher rank in the navy.

11. If ever a man lived an active life it was Captain Cook. He had left home a few months after his marriage and since then had spent but little time with his family. He had been on a voyage lasting over three years, and now he was again appointed to sail in search of the supposed southern continent. The new expedition

started in April, 1772. This voyage proved Cook a great benefactor to the human race. All previous long voyages had been disastrous to mariners through the ravages of the scurvy. Cook himself had lost many men and had long sought the best way to fight the disease. He discovered certain articles of food that prevented the dreaded scourge from spreading and was ever afterwards able to control it.

12. The second voyage lasted over three years. The two vessels sailed first to the Cape of Good Hope and then went southward until the great ice-pack barred their further progress. After waiting for two months in the hope of finding land the vessels sailed for New Zealand. Some time was spent in surveying the coasts, after which they went to Otaheite, and discovered some new islands. In 1774 Cook again tried to force his way through the wall of ice, in the hope of reaching land, but was at last forced to the conclusion that there was no land there that could be reached by human beings. In the next January, however, he made one further attempt, after which he turned towards home and reached England in July, 1775.

13. Cook was received with honor, was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, was promoted and received a pension. In France, Spain and Russia, he was regarded as the greatest navigator the world had ever seen. He was now forty-seven years old, and had been at sea for thirty-four years. He was fated to sail once more into the vast unknown solitudes of the earth.

14. Captain Cook had effectually disposed of the theory of a southern continent; but his voyages and discoveries aroused the keenest interest in maritime enterprises, and

men began again to dream of a north-west passage to China. A reward of one hundred thousand dollars was offered to anyone who should discover such a route. Several unsuccessful attempts were made to find the passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific; at last it was determined to reverse the route and try from the Pacific to the Atlantic. Cook offered to lead the expedition, and his offer was at once accepted. At the same time ships were sent to try the old route by way of the Atlantic.

15. He sailed in the *Resolution*, the ship in which he had made his second voyage, on the 12th of July, 1776, accompanied by one other vessel. Table Bay was reached in October, and thence he followed his former route to New Zealand, and spent the following year in revisiting groups of islands in the southern Pacific, and in discovering and naming new ones.

16. In December, 1777, he crossed the line, and soon afterwards discovered the Sandwich Islands. On the 7th of March he touched Drake's New Albion about the centre of the present State of Oregon. Stormy weather prevented any landing, so he kept up the coast. He sighted and named Cape Flattery, but missed the Juan de Fuca strait, and made no landing till he reached Nootka Sound, which he at first named after George III. Here the ships were repaired, and a large number of natives came to see their strange visitors. When the vessels were ready Cook sailed slowly up the coast, examining every inlet, and naming islands and headlands. As provisions were short the crew joyfully welcomed the natives bringing fresh salmon, cod and halibut. The crew caught several sea-horses, which they were glad to eat instead of salt junk.

17. Arrived at Cook Inlet, Captain Cook thought he had at last discovered the long-sought passage, but a thorough search brought only disappointment. He slowly continued his way along the Alaska coast, finally reaching the entrance to Behring Strait. Here a particular examination of the ice was made, and Cook came to the conclusion that if there were a body of water reaching to the Atlantic, it was never free from ice, and was therefore useless for purposes of navigation. Having explored three thousand five hundred miles of the American shore he then turned south along the coast of Kamschatka, where he fell in with Russian settlers, and obtained information as to the general geography of that part of the world.

18. In October he sailed for the Sandwich Islands, which he reached in December. He was received by the natives with more than ordinary respect. In February, 1779, he left Hawaii, but returned in a few days, owing to an accident to the mast. The natives now became sullen, and, instead of helping the crews, hindered the work by stealing valuables at every opportunity. On going to obtain satisfaction for the theft of a boat Cook found the natives in arms. Some of his men fired upon them, and before Cook could stop the firing and fetch his men away in safety he was attacked by a furious mob, stabbed many times, and held under water until he was dead.

19. It is sad to think that the world's greatest navigator should not have lived to return in triumph from his last great voyage, but should have fallen victim to a deplorable accident in the far-off Sandwich Islands which brought his life to an untimely end.

VANCOUVER.

1. GEORGE VANCOUVER was trained in a good school. He was one of Cook's men, which is sufficient evidence that he learned to endure hardship, to overcome difficulties, and to become a thorough master of his profession.

2. He, like Cook, came of humble folk. He was born in 1758, and at the early age of thirteen was entered as an ordinary seaman on board Cook's ship the *Resolution*, and accompanied him upon his famous second voyage of discovery into the southern seas. He became a midshipman on Cook's last voyage to the Pacific, and was present at Otaheite when his captain was murdered by the natives. He returned to England in 1780, and successfully passed his examination for promotion, and received the rank of lieutenant.

3. In 1782 he served under another famous captain. He was appointed lieutenant of the ship *Fame*, which sailed under Admiral Rodney to the West Indies, where considerable fighting was done. He returned to England the year after, and spent some time in perfecting himself in the art of navigation. His next appointment was that of second in command of an expedition to explore the South Sea, but owing to trouble with Spain on the west coast of North America it did not set out.

4. Spain clung with the greatest tenacity to her American possessions, and tried to make up on the west coast what she had lost on the east. Since the discovery of Vancouver Island by Juan de Fuca she had done little or nothing in the way of exploring the country so far north. But in 1774 Juan Perez is believed to have visited Nootka Sound, naming it San

Lorenzo. Cook's stay in that place, and his trade in furs with the Indians along the coast of New Albion, as the land discovered by Drake was called, soon came to the ears of the Spaniards, who sent out warships to keep foreigners away.

5. An English pioneer, Captain James Mears, established a trading-post in Nootka Sound, and carried thence his furs to China. After one successful trip the Spanish war-vessels swooped down upon him, seized and confiscated his ships and other property, and destroyed his buildings. This happened in 1789, and Captain Mears at once appealed to the English government for redress. Spain was forced to make amends, and also to relinquish her claim to the Pacific coast north of California, and the trading-post at Nootka Sound was restored.

6. Vancouver was chosen to go out to receive from the Spaniards the territory they had seized. He was also instructed to make an accurate survey of the coast from California as far north as possible. He sailed on the 1st of April, 1791, in the *Discovery*. Being allowed to choose his own route he followed the example of his old master, Cook, and went by the Cape of Good Hope. When he reached Australia he made a thorough survey of its western coast, discovering King George's Sound and other points. He then went to New Zealand, where he also made some discoveries. In one place where Cook had marked on his chart, "Nobody knows what," Vancouver made a complete survey, and placed upon his new chart, "Somebody knows what."

7. Nootka was reached early in 1792, and Vancouver formally took over all that the Spaniards had seized.

He now began a systematic exploration of the district. The Straits of Juan de Fuca were carefully examined, and he then sailed round the island to which his name has been given. Following up the coast he made a very complete survey as far north as Cook's Inlet, and was the first explorer to give us an accurate outline of North America on the Pacific. He spent two years of unremitting toil in this important work, suffering all sorts of hardships in the manful spirit of his great predecessor. On his way south he met an American captain in the ship *Columbia*, of Boston, who had just discovered and named the Columbia River.

8. An interesting account of the natives on Vancouver Island has come down to us. They were small in size and not nearly so good-looking as the inhabitants of the southern islands. "Their color we could not determine, as their bodies were encrusted with paint and dirt, though in particular cases the whiteness of the skin appeared almost to equal that of Europeans. Their children, whose skins had never been stained with paint, also equalled ours in whiteness. . . . Their common dress is a flaxen garment or mantle, ornamented on the upper edge by a narrow strip of fur. It passes under the left arm and is tied over the right shoulder by a string. Over this, which reaches below the knees, is a small cloak, resembling a round dish-cover, being quite closed, except in the middle, where there is a hole for the head; it covers the arms to the elbows, and the body as far as the waist.

9. "They rub their bodies constantly over with a red paint mixed with oil, and their garments by this means

contract a rancid and offensive smell and a greasy nastiness, so that they make a very wretched, dirty appearance. Their faces are often stained with a black, a bright red or a white color, by way of ornament. They also strew mica upon the paint, which makes it glitter." The natives also wore carved wooden masks which gave them a frightful appearance. "Some of these resemble human faces, others the heads of birds, and many the heads of land and sea animals, such as wolves, deer and porpoises. So fond are they of these disguises that I have seen one of them put his head into a tin kettle he had got from us, for want of another sort of mask."

10. They were inveterate thieves and used all sorts of devices to engage the attention of their visitors while their confederates stripped the ships of everything in the way of metal that could be carried off. They were also cannibals. "The most extraordinary of all the articles which they brought to the ships for sale were human skulls, and hands not yet quite stripped of the flesh, which they made our people plainly understand they had eaten. We had but too much reason to suspect that the horrid practice of feeding on their enemies is as prevalent here as we had found it to be at New Zealand and other South Sea islands."

11. Vancouver sailed straight down the coast, calling at Valparaiso, and rounding Cape Horn. He called at St. Helena and there met some English warships which conducted him home in safety. The *Discovery* entered the Thames on the 20th of October, 1795. He immediately gave himself up to preparing an account of his voyage, with charts and maps of all his explorations. Just as he had completed this work he fell ill and died

on the 10th of May, 1798. His brother published the book, together with a large volume of magnificent maps and plates.

12. "Vancouver's work on the west and north-west coasts of America was of the highest character, and has formed the basis of all subsequent surveys. His zeal led him to take an active share in all operations, and the hardships he thus suffered tended no doubt to shorten his life. He was a man of great tact, humanity, generosity and uprightness of character."

13. The first large settlement on Vancouver Island was made in 1843 by the Hudson's Bay Company, who placed a trading-post where Victoria now stands. In 1849 the island was made a crown colony; it was united with British Columbia in 1866.

MACKENZIE.

1. Sir Alexander Mackenzie was one of those enterprising Scotch lads who, like Lord Strathcona, left their homes in the Highlands to seek for fortune in the wilds of Canada. He was born at Inverness in 1755, and received a good, plain education. When he was twenty-three he came out to Canada as a clerk in the firm of Messrs. Gregory & Company, of Toronto. In 1783 this firm, with some others in Montreal, formed themselves into the North-West Company, to wrest from the Hudson's Bay Company part of their monopoly of the fur-trade.

2. The rivalry between these companies lay in the far North-West. After many years of sleepy inactivity—the result of monopoly—the Hudson's Bay Company sent out a party of exploration under Samuel Hearne, one of its officers. He reached the Coppermine River in 1770, and was the first European to look upon the Arctic Ocean. The North-West Company in turn became anxious to make explorations, and to open up avenues for trade.

3. In 1784 Mackenzie was sent to Detroit with a quantity of goods for barter, with instructions to penetrate into the interior in the following spring. The young fur-trader made his way by long and toilsome journeys across Lake Huron to Sault Ste. Marie, along the north shore of Lake Superior; thence to the Lake of the Woods and Lake Winnipeg: and thence by lake and stream and river to Fort Chippewayan, on Lake Atha-

basca, or the Lake of the Hills as it was then called. In this wild and lonely spot he stayed for some years, carrying on considerable trade with the Chippewa Indians. His experience and ability pointed him out as the most suitable man to explore the unknown country to the north-west.

4. He started on his memorable journey on the 3rd of June, 1789, in a birch-bark canoe. "The crew consisted of four Canadians, two of whom were attended by their wives, and a German; we were accompanied also by an Indian, who had acquired the title of English Chief, and his two wives, in a small canoe, with two young Indians." After a week's paddling on Slave River they reached Slave Lake, which, though it was the 9th of June, they found covered with ice. Here they were obliged to stay for a week, and even then could not cross the lake, but had to make a circuit of it. Game was very abundant, ducks and geese and white partridges—and their eggs—being taken in large numbers, as were the trout and whitefish of the lake.

5. It was the end of June before Mackenzie reached the entrance to the river called after him. Here he met a small camp of Dog-rib Indians, who tried to dissuade him from continuing his journey. "The information which they gave had so much of the fabulous that I shall not detail it; it will be sufficient just to mention their attempt to persuade us that it would require several winters to get to the sea, and that old age would come upon us before we could return; we were also to encounter monsters of such horrid shapes and destructive powers as could only exist in their wild imaginations." The result was that Mackenzie's chief guide deserted,

and he was obliged to use force to keep with him some of the others.

6. Day after day the voyagers pursued their way upon the bosom of the unknown river, sometimes missing their way at a portage, loaded with provisions which they were afraid to store, through uncertainty of their return, devoured by mosquitoes and gnats by day, and suffering from cold by night. As they went northward the days grew longer. On the 11th of July "I sat up all night to observe the sun. At half-past twelve I called up one of the men to view a spectacle which he had never before seen; when, on seeing the sun so high, he thought it was time to embark, and began to call the rest of his companions."

7. At length they got into a country naked of trees. The banks of the river became higher and the current swifter. "The adjacent land is covered with short grass and flowers, though the earth was not thawed above four inches from the surface, beneath which was a solid body of ice. This beautiful appearance was strangely contrasted with the ice and snow that are seen in the valleys. The soil, where there is any, is a yellow clay mixed with stones."

8. Signs of Esquimaux were seen: "pieces of netting made of sinews and some bark of the willow. The thread of the former was plaited, and no small time must have been employed in manufacturing so great a length of cord. A square stone kettle, with a flat bottom, also occupied our attention, which was capable of containing two gallons; and we were puzzled as to the means these people must have employed to have chiselled it out of a solid rock into its present form."

9. On the 12th of July Mackenzie reached the great arm of the sea which opens into the Arctic Ocean. Here his Indians were terrified by a large number of whales which were seen disporting themselves, and also by the rising of the tide which carried off some of their baggage. He searched for Esquimaux among the islands of the delta, but they were all away on their annual hunt. The largest of these he called Whale Island, and here he erected a post on which he engraved the latitude of the place, his name, the number of his party and the date.

10. The return journey was slower, as the current was in some places very strong, and the canoes had to be towed wherever the river banks allowed of it. "When we came to the river of the Bear Lake I ordered one of the young Indians to wait for my canoe and I took my place in their small canoe. This river is about two hundred and fifty yards broad at this place. When I landed on the opposite shore I discovered that the natives had been there very lately from the print of their feet in the sand. We continued walking until five in the afternoon, when we saw several smokes along the shore. As we naturally concluded that these were certain indications that we should meet with natives we quickened our pace, but in our progress experienced a very sulphurous smell, and at length discovered that the whole bank was on fire for a very considerable distance. It proved to be a coal mine, to which the fire had communicated from an old Indian encampment. The beach was covered with coals and the English Chief gathered some of the softest he could find as a black dye."

11. Mackenzie reached Fort Chippewayan on the 12th of September, having been absent one hundred and two

days. His journey was productive of good results in the way of opening up new routes for the fur-trade, and was of the greatest importance as a voyage of discovery.

12. He employed the next three years in managing the affairs of his trading-post and in perfecting his mathematical knowledge. In 1792 he determined to attempt the feat, hitherto unaccomplished, of finding his way to the Pacific Ocean. Taking a few men and two canoes, he left Fort Chippewayan on the 10th of October, and went up the Peace River. By the 1st of November he was obliged to go into winter quarters at the Company's most westerly outpost. The cold months were spent in collecting a store of furs. On the 9th of May, 1793, Mackenzie set forth upon his search for the Pacific. He took one birch-bark canoe, over twenty-five feet long, which carried ten men, baggage, food, ammunition and goods for barter.

13. Here is a bit of description written when he was one day out:—"From the place which we quitted this morning the west side of the river displayed a succession of the most beautiful scenery I had ever beheld. The ground rises at intervals to a considerable height; at every interval or pause in the rise there is a very gently ascending space or lawn, which is alternate with abrupt precipices to the summit of the whole, or at least as far as eye could see. This magnificent theatre of nature has all the decorations which the trees and animals of the country can afford it; groves of poplars in every shape vary the scene, and their intervals are enlivened with vast herds of elks and buffaloes—the former choosing the steeps and uplands and the latter preferring the plains. At this time the buffaloes were attended with

their young ones, who were frisking about them. The whole country displayed an exuberant verdure; the trees that bear blossom were advancing fast to that delightful appearance and the velvet rind of their branches, reflecting the oblique rays of a rising or setting sun, added a splendid gaiety to the scene."

14. As the solitary canoe made its way up the river the current became so strong that it sometimes took seven days to make a distance that was accomplished in one day on the return journey. The frail boat was so frequently broken that the numerous patches soon doubled its original weight. As they got into the Rocky Mountains the explorers often made less than three miles a day, and the labor was so arduous that Mackenzie's companions began to urge him to give up the dangerous enterprise. The Indians they met also tried to dissuade him from going on; but he declared he would not turn back if he had to proceed alone.

15. When he reached the head waters of the Peace River he found that the portage necessary to be made to reach a stream flowing west was so difficult as almost to defy the resolution of the boldest. Paths had to be cut, morasses to be crossed; the guides deserted; provisions ran low and the men lost heart. Mackenzie alone preserved his courage and persevered without a thought of giving up. Following is his account of one dangerous incident:—

16. "We had hardly regained our situations when we drove against a rock which shattered the stern of the canoe in such a manner that it held only by the gunwales, so that the steersman could no longer keep his place. The violence of this stroke drove us to the

opposite side of the river, when the bow met with the same fate as the stern. At this moment the foreman seized on some branches of a small tree in the hope of bringing up the canoe; but such was their elasticity that, in a manner not easily described, he was jerked on shore in an instant and with a degree of violence that threatened his destruction.

17. "But we had no time to turn from our own situation to enquire what had befallen him; for, in a few moments, we came across a cascade which broke several large holes in the bottom of the canoe and started all the bars, except one behind the scooping seat. The wreck becoming flat on the water we all jumped out and held fast to it, to which fortunate resolution we owed our safety, as we should otherwise have been dashed against the rocks by the force of the water, or driven over the cascades."

18. The river which they had thus entered was the swift-flowing Fraser, though Mackenzie laid it down on his map as the Columbia. With the greatest difficulty he gathered bark and gum and stopping on an island built another canoe. After proceeding rapidly down stream for some days he found from friendly Indians that his easiest way to reach the coast was to retrace his course for about one hundred miles and then to leave the river and strike out to the west on foot. With infinite toil this was done, and on the 4th of July, having buried what goods and food they could not carry, the little band began their westward march.

19. There is not space to tell of the new difficulties and dangers that beset them as they climbed height after height of the snow-clad mountains of the Coast Range.

On the 19th of July Mackenzie fell in with some Indians who had seen Captain Cook; and thus cheered he pushed on. Next day he at last beheld an arm of the sea glistening in the distance, and on the 21st he issued forth upon the waters of Mackenzie's Outlet. We can imagine his feelings as he looked upon its mighty waters. We place him in our minds beside the other discoverers of that ocean.

> "Like stout Cortes, when with eagle eyes
> He stared at the Pacific,—and all his men
> Look'd at each other with a wild surmise—
> Silent, upon a peak in Darien."

Or like Drake, who over two hundred years earlier climbed the hill, and the tree on top of it, and saw at once both the Atlantic and the Pacific, and exclaimed: "Almighty God! of Thy goodness give me life and leave to sail once an English ship upon that sea." He proceeded some distance along its shores, and on the face of a great cliff he wrote an inscription. "I now mixed up some vermilion in melted grease and inscribed in large characters on the south-east face of the rock on which we had slept last night this brief memorial: 'Alexander Mackenzie, from Canada, by land, the twenty-second of July, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-three.'"

20. Owing to a hostile demonstration on the part of the natives, who had suffered from the fire-arms of white men who had come there in ships, Mackenzie was obliged to leave the coast two days after his arrival. His return was made with less difficulty than the journey out, and once upon the waters of the Peace River it was delightfully easy, except for the pangs of hunger,

owing to temporary scarcity of game. He reached his previous winter's camp on the 24th of August.

21. "At length, as we rounded a point and came in view of the fort, we threw out our flag and accompanied it with a general discharge of our fire-arms; while the men were in such spirits and made such an active use of their paddles that we arrived before the two men whom we left here in the spring could recover their senses to answer us. Thus we landed at four in the afternoon at the place which we left on the 9th of May. Here my voyages of discovery terminate."

22. The great explorer was knighted by the king in 1802. In time he set up a rival fur company of his own called "Sir Alexander Mackenzie & Co.," afterwards united with the Hudson's Bay Company. He became member for the county of Huntingdon in the provincial parliament. Later on in life he bought an estate in Scotland. He died suddenly in 1820 while on a journey to Edinburgh.

SELKIRK.

1. THOMAS DOUGLAS, Earl of Selkirk, was born in St. Mary's Isle, in Scotland, on the 20th of June, 1771. He was educated at Edinburgh University, where he became the close, personal friend of Sir Walter Scott. Both young men belonged to "The Club," a famous students' society for the discussion of social and political questions. These discussions at college had a great effect upon Selkirk's after life.

2. At this time the Scottish peasantry were in a deplorable condition. The landlords were turning their estates into pasture lands or hunting preserves, and the peasants suffered wholesale eviction. Selkirk made a tour through the Highlands, saw the state of misery to which they were reduced, and undertook the noble work of alleviating their distress. He saw that the only hope for them was emigration, and his efforts were devoted to assisting them to settle in colonies under the British flag.

3. He tried to interest the government in his emigration scheme, but the most it would do was to make a considerable grant of lands in Prince Edward Island. Selkirk found himself obliged to do the work of assisting the peasants. He selected eight hundred men for his first colony and took them over in August, 1803. Many difficulties were at first encountered; but, when he revisited the island in the following year he found everything in a most satisfactory state, and the colony continued to flourish.

4. Encouraged by the success of his first important venture Selkirk made a long journey through Canada

and the United States, looking for favorable localities in which to plant settlers. He established a small settlement near the present town of Chatham, in Ontario, and arranged for a larger one on the Grand River, which the war between France and England prevented his carrying out. It is interesting to note that he offered to build a wagon road from Toronto to Chatham at a cost of one hundred thousand dollars in return for a grant of wild lands along the route; but his offer was declined. Not only did he thus busy himself in a practical way, but he also wrote a valuable book on the state of the peasantry in Scotland and the benefit of emigration, which Sir Walter Scott praised in his novel "Waverley."

5. As a result of his enquiries Selkirk became convinced that the most suitable place for a large colony was the Red River valley. At that time there was no settlement there; the Indians roamed at large upon the boundless prairie, hunting the buffalo, and trapping wild animals for the fur. The country belonged to the Hudson's Bay Company, which, however, made no attempt to occupy it.

6. This great Company, holding the lands which stretched westward from Hudson's Bay almost to the Rocky Mountains, was content to confine its business to a few trading-posts on the bay. It looked for its trade to what furs the Indians brought from the territory covered by its charter. As has been related in the life of Sir Alexander Mackenzie, enterprising Canadians formed rival companies to win a portion of this valuable fur-trade, and showed enterprise in which the great Company was signally lacking.

7. The servants of the North-West and other companies were mostly French half-breeds, a wild and hardy race of men who were thoroughly familiar with Indians and Indian hunting, and who were content to spend their lives in the distant trading-posts, trapping their own furs as well as bartering with the red men. They held several posts in the Red River valley, among which was Fort Garry, and controlled the trade of the whole country.

8. Lord Selkirk, in furtherance of his plans for colonizing, bought so many shares of the Hudson's Bay Company as virtually to control it. He purchased from it about forty-five millions of acres along the banks of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers, in what are now Manitoba and Minnesota. The rival companies were immediately aroused to a state of violent opposition. They disputed the right of the great Company to the land and determined to oppose the attempt to plant a colony there.

9. In 1811 a considerable number of emigrants, mostly unmarried, were sent out by Selkirk from the north of Scotland to Hudson's Bay. They spent there a winter of great hardship and in the following summer arrived at their destination at the junction of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers. They built Fort Douglas and lived there during the following winter in a state of semi-starvation. Selkirk's agent, Miles McDonell, issued a proclamation claiming the territory for the Earl of Selkirk, and forbade the sending of any provisions out of the country. The officials of the North-West Company refused to recognize McDonell or obey his orders.

10. The first attempts at growing crops were unsuccessful and the new settlers were often at the point of



starvation. Conflict between the two parties arose over McDonell's attempt to seize a store of provisions. After this there were constant small fights and all men went about armed. McDonell tried to end the trouble by ordering the "North-Westers" to leave the country within six months. The result was an attack upon Fort Douglas in which several men were injured. Discouraged by the hardships and dangers of their life of toil and destitution many of Selkirk's men were, in 1815, induced to leave the colony. Seventy of them went up to Norway House, and many more were shipped to Upper Canada and were received and cared for at Toronto.

11. When the seventy refugees arrived at Norway House they were met by a new party sent out with assistance for the settlers, and they, therefore, returned to their farms. They found that their enemies had burned their buildings and crops. In the autumn one hundred and fifty additional men arrived from the Highlands, sent out by Selkirk under Robert Semple, the newly-appointed Governor of the Hudson's Bay Territories.

12. In the spring of 1816 Semple proceeded to extreme measures with the rival traders. He seized their fort, pulled down the buildings, and kept the commanding officer a prisoner. Other trading-posts were similarly treated, and the servants of the North-West Company, with whom the Indians were allies, retaliated wherever it was possible. At length they collected their men together, and with a large body of Indians attacked Fort Douglas. Semple had only twenty-seven men with him at the time, but fought until he and twenty

others were killed, when the fort was taken. The colony was again destroyed, and the settlers took refuge once more at Norway House.

13. In the meantime Selkirk was on his way to the rescue of his ill-fated settlement. Upon his arrival in Canada he asked for a military force to protect his property, but this was refused. He succeeded, however, in obtaining a personal escort of a few soldiers, and the powers of a magistrate. He enrolled over a hundred disbanded soldiers at his own expense, and started for the Red River, by way of the lakes. On his way he heard of the disaster to Governor Semple, and he, therefore, attacked Fort William, the headquarters of the North-West Company in the West, and sent the inmates as prisoners to Upper Canada. For this high-handed measure he had to abide many subsequent troubles in the Canadian law courts.

14. It was not until June, 1817, that he reached the prostrated colony. Fort Douglas at once submitted, and the settlers were soon brought back. The historian of Manitoba tells us how Lord Selkirk gathered them together on the spot in the present city of Winnipeg where St. John's church and burying-ground now stand. '"Here," said his lordship, pointing to lot number four, on which they stood, "here you shall build your church; and that lot," said he, pointing to lot number three, across the little stream called Parsonage Creek, "is for a school." The people then reminded his lordship that he had promised them a minister, who should follow them to their adopted country. This he at once acknowledged, saying, "Selkirk never forfeited his word."'

15. He also gathered the Indian chiefs together and made a treaty with them, by which, for a small consideration, they resigned all right and title in the lands along the rivers of the province, and promised not to attack the settlers. Having set its affairs in order Selkirk returned to Upper Canada, full of enthusiasm for a proposed extension of the colony.

16. He was detained for a long time by the suits for compensation, and had to pay a fine of ten thousand dollars, after which he returned to England completely shattered in health. A journey to the south of France failed to restore it, and he died at Pau, in April, 1820, at the early age of forty-nine years. In the year of his death the rival companies were amalgamated, and all strife ceased.

17. The "Gentleman's Magazine" thus spoke of Lord Selkirk: "The latter years of the life of this lamented nobleman were employed in the establishment of an extensive colony in the western parts of British America. In the prosecution of this favorite object he had encountered obstacles of the most unexpected and formidable character. With these, however, he was admirably qualified to contend. . . . The obstructions he met with served only to stimulate him to increased exertion; and after an arduous struggle with a powerful confederacy, which had arrayed itself against him, and which would, long ere now, have subdued any other adversary, he had the satisfaction to know that he had finally succeeded in founding an industrious and thriving community. It has now struck deep root in the soil, and is competent, from its own internal resources, to perpetuate itself and

to extend the blessings of civilization to those remote and boundless regions."

18. An English statesman said that Lord Selkirk, in his treatise on emigration, had exhausted one of the most difficult subjects in the range of political economy, and that he was a remarkable man, who had lived before his time. Sir Walter Scott said of the friend of his college days: "I never knew in all my life a man of more generous and disinterested disposition."

LAURA SECORD.

1. LAURA SECORD'S husband came of a family of Huguenots who out of loyalty to their faith lost their property and left their home in Rochelle in 1681 and settled in the State of New York. She herself belonged to a family who suffered much through the same deep-seated loyalty. Her father, Thomas Ingersoll, founder of the town of that name, left his home in Massachusetts at the close of the American war of independence, and was one of the most prominent of the United Empire Loyalists who settled in Ontario. Laura was his eldest child, born in December, 1775, and was about twenty years of age when her home in Massachusetts was broken up, and her family became emigrants through a desire to live under the British flag.

2. Laura Ingersoll married James Secord and settled at St. David's, three miles from the Niagara River, later on removing to Queenston, where her husband was a successful merchant. His mother was one of a party of devoted women whom the horrors of war had caused to take refuge in Canada while their husbands and brothers remained to fight. They arrived, five in number, with thirty-one children, at Fort Niagara in 1776, destitute and starving. Mrs. Secord and her children, of whom Laura Ingersoll's husband was the youngest, came in a wagon without food, furniture or clothing. Such a picture of misery was not uncommon at that time in the Niagara peninsula. Before the revolt of the American colonies that fertile district, now the garden of Canada,

was unpeopled; at the close of the war its population numbered ten thousand.

3. Queenston, the scene of Laura Secord's exploit, was at that time a place of some importance. Here came ship-loads of merchandise from Montreal to be carried over the precipitous portage and re-shipped in the river above the Falls for the trading-posts in the distant West. At the mouth of the river was the fort and military encampment, a place of strategic importance since the days of Frontenac.

4. In the war of 1812 the Niagara frontier was selected by the Americans as one of the principal points for the invasion of Canada. They crossed the river on the 13th of October and established themselves upon Queenston Heights, where they were routed by General Brock, who lost his life while gallantly leading his men in a charge up the cliff. James Secord was one of those who carried the dying general off the battle-field. In the final assault he was wounded and his wife came to his assistance. Her grandson thus relates the incident:

5. "Just as she reached the spot three American soldiers came up, and two of them raised their muskets to club him to death. My grandmother rushed in between them, telling them to kill her and spare her husband. One of them spoke very roughly and told her to get out of the way, and, shoving her to one side, was about to accomplish his murderous intention." An American officer, arriving at that moment, saved James Secord's life and helped his wife to take him to his own home in safety. Thus inured to hardships and the dreadful risks of war by the stern discipline her own and her husband's families had undergone, and by their

present experience, this brave woman was fitted to perform an act of heroism that saved her country from invasion and bloodshed.

6. In June, 1813, the Canadian side of the Niagara River was in the hands of the Americans. General Vincent, who commanded the Canadian forces, had fallen back to the head of the lake. There was an outpost at the Twenty-mile Creek, or Jordan, another at Ten-mile Creek, and between them, at Beaver Dams, was stored a large quantity of camp stores and ammunition. Moving freely about from this point was a body of fifty scouts under Lieutenant FitzGibbon, a clever and resourceful officer. It is interesting to note that, even in those days, the red-coat of the British infantry was found to be unsuitable for scouting work. FitzGibbon had no khaki, but he dressed his men in reversible coats, red on one side and gray on the other.

7. Laura Secord was obliged to entertain a number of American officers who were waiting to complete their forces before marching against the Canadian troops at Burlington Heights. She heard them discussing their plans. They proposed next day to seize the post at Beaver Dams and make it their headquarters for the advance to the head of the lake. As soon as they left the house to perfect their arrangements Laura Secord told her husband FitzGibbon must be warned. James Secord was not strong enough for the journey and could not easily pass the pickets; there was no one else to send, so the courageous woman determined to take her life in her hands and attempt the long journey on foot.

8. The distance from Queenston to Beaver Dams by the direct road was thirteen miles; but Laura Secord had

heard the officers say that a portion of the troops were to go that way to attack the post at Ten-mile Creek, and she must, therefore, take a circuitous path.

9. She started in the middle of the night. The illness of a brother at St. David's was the excuse that induced the sentry to let her pass. Her relatives at St. David's tried in vain to dissuade her from the journey; in a few minutes she proceeded on her way, accompanied by a niece. Heavy rains had made the road difficult, and in places she had to wade the streams or creep across fallen trees on hands and knees. Fear of interception caused her to make a detour, which after a long and arduous walk brought her to St. Catharines—then called Shipman's Corners. Here her companion's feet became so sore that she could go no further.

10. From St. Catharines Mrs. Secord followed the course of the Twelve-mile Creek, crossing and re-crossing that stream. As she drew near to Beaver Dams she had to fear FitzGibbon's Indian allies, who were apt to pay small respect to women. Here is her own statement: "I left early in the morning, walked nineteen miles in the month of June to a field belonging to Mr. DeCamp, in the neighborhood of the Beaver Dams. By this time daylight had left me. Here I found all the Indians encamped. By moonlight the scene was terrifying, and to those unaccustomed to such scenes might be considered grand. Upon advancing to the Indians they all ran and said, with some yells, 'Woman!' which made me tremble. I cannot express the awful feeling it gave me, but I did not lose my presence of mind. I was determined to persevere. I went up to one of the chiefs, made him understand that I had great news for Fitz-

Gibbon, and that he must let me pass to his camp, or that he and his party would all be taken.

11. "The chief at first objected to let me pass, but finally consented to go with me to FitzGibbon's station, which was at Beaver Dams, where I had an interview with him. . . . Benefiting by this information Captain FitzGibbon formed his plans accordingly, and captured about five hundred American infantry and fifty mounted dragoons, and a field-piece or two was taken from the enemy. I returned home the next day exhausted and fatigued. I am now advanced in years, and when I look back I wonder how I could have gone through so much fatigue with the fortitude to accomplish it."

12. FitzGibbon said: "Mrs. Secord was a woman of slight and delicate frame and made the effort in excessively hot weather, and I dreaded at the time she must suffer in health in consequence of fatigue and anxiety."

13. A frail and delicate woman walked most of the night and all next day under a tropical sun to warn men of the approach of her country's enemies! No words of praise are needed. The country that can boast such mothers is, upon its own soil, impregnable.

14. Laura Secord lived fifty-five years after the performance of her heroic deed. She died on the 17th of October, 1868, and was buried in the churchyard at Niagara Falls, where a stone has recently been erected to her memory.

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